THE BEST OF DC COMICS

No. 12

1/-

SUPER DC

SUPERMAN, BATMAN & ROBIN, JIMMY OLSEN, SUPERBOY

PADDY AND HIS PROPS

HE travels with Ronson gas, baby bottles, flyspray, cotton wool, Coca-Cola, violin strings, spectacles, ropes, tuning fork, sun glasses, collapsible daggers, cigars, darts, puncture outfits, rifle cartridges, torches – "And that's only my travelling box!"

He uses vegetable colouring as whisky and ginger ale as champagne. ("One charming actress used the real thing in one film but by the afternoon she was always a bit tiddly. It just doesn't do"). And the GPO made 1940 stamps for him . . .

He is John Bennett, better known to British film men as Paddy Props.

"It was really an accident that I became a props man. I was a steeplechaser before Stewart Granger brought me over from Ireland in 1945 to look after the horses in a film called *Captain Boycott*. After the horses Paddy found himself called in as "nursemaid" on other pictures. It was an ostrich in *Swiss Family Robinson*, leopards for *The Castaways*, sharks for *Thunderball* and – worst of all, he feels – alligators for *An Alligator Named Daisy*. "I had two terrors on that, Peter and Paul."

Peter and Paul were nine-foot long alligators.

Director Ken Annakin paid him the compliment of telling Paddy: "You can produce anything from a needle to an elephant." In fact he had to find an elephant for Annakin's *Swiss Family Robinson*.

The needle? On *The Battle of Britain* Ian McShane challenged Paddy to find a steel gramophone needle of the extinct variety that would have been used on the kind of record-player in an RAF mess. "That was surprisingly difficult but I came up with it eventually."

He prefers work on period pictures. "It's rewarding and interesting, sticking rigidly to detail," says Paddy. "It's surprising how often I fall back on some little thing I haven't used for years. That's my motto – never throw anything away."

Paddy's favourite actor to work with – Sir Laurence Olivier. Not because he is a great actor, "Sir Laurence is a pleasure to work with because he's always very careful of his props and never lets them out of his sight."

That's a compliment that Paddy feels is really a compliment. And so Sir Laurence should feel honoured!

TARZAN SAYS

HERE is a further instalment from Tarzan's Ape-English dictionary.

Kas, jump; *klu*, hen; *klu-kal*, egg; *ko*, mighty; *kob*, hit; *koho*, hot; *kor*, walk; *kordo*, dance; *keta*, tortoise; *krregah*, beware; *kree-gor*, scream; *kudu*, sun; *kut*, hole.

Lan, right; *lana*, sting; *lano*, mosquito; *lat*, nose; *litu*, sharp; *lob*, kick; *lot*, face; *lu*, fierce; *lufe*, side; *lul*, water; *lul-ker*, swim; *lus*, tongue.

LAUGHING LAST

AS a schoolboy, Mike Yarwood was always impersonating his teachers. On his last day at school, when he was 15, he was summoned to the school library where all the teachers were assembled.

"We hear you're very good at impersonating us," they said. "Show us!"

Mike was on a spot but he did his impressions for them and won a round of applause. Today he is well known on TV for his impersonations of Harold Wilson, Edward Heath and Malcolm Muggeridge among others.

But not schoolteachers!

STAR PIC: 12

Alfred Hawthorne Hill – better known as Benny Hill – started work in a Southampton coal merchant's, then cleaned floors in Woolworth's and did a milk round. But his ambition was the stage and at 16 he sold his drum kit for £10 and set off for London.

For three nights he slept on Streatham Common while he toured theatres until he got a job as an assistant stage manager. His big break came in an army show.

He rations his TV appearances today to leave himself time for his hobby of travelling abroad.

IS YOUR NAME HERE?

COLOUR Batman, we invited you in *Super DC* contest number six. Now the judges have done their work and we can give you the winners. First prize of a transistor radio goes to Garry Hammerton, aged 13, of East Lancashire Road, Liverpool 11.

But there are more to come!

The 24 consolation prizes of Airfix scale model construction kits go to the following: Mark M. Wilson, Howard Saunders, Thomas Curbishley, Terence McKay, Joseph Hillsdon, David Constantine, Malcolm Robinson, Simon Lyon, G. Shaw, Michael Wilkinson, Colin Sambrook, Tony Oxley, Peter Adamson, Dennis Jolley, Stephen Hegarty, Martin Shenton, Andrew David Bartlett, Stephen Boyd, Reece James, Russell Patkeh, Mark Bate, Ian Tomlinson and Stefan Goworek.

More competition results soon.

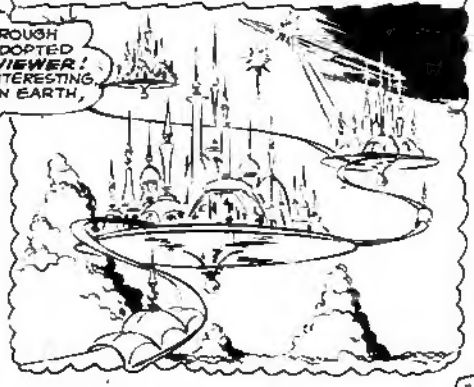
SUPERMAN
HE'S MIGHTIER THAN A MILLION MASTODONS... MORE INTELLIGENT THAN AN ARMY OF EINSTEINS...AND H-BOMB BLASTS DON'T BOTHER HIM! WHO IS HE...SUPERMAN? NOPE, YOU LOSE! WE MEAN THAT 50-FOOT FINK, ETERNO! AND WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THESE TWO TITANS TANGLE? DIVE FOR COVER AND FIND OUT, AS THE CAPED KRYPTONIAN MATCHES MUSCLES WITH THAT GIGANTIC JUGGERNAUT...
"ETERNO the IMMORTAL!"

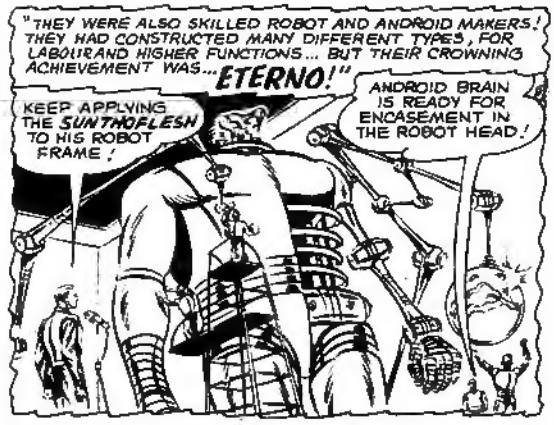
FROM THE DEEP VOID, BEYOND OUR GALAXY, A SLEEK STARSHIP COURSES TOWARD OUR SOLAR SYSTEM...
ARL! BEWARE! WE ARE ENTERING THE SOL PLANETARY SYSTEM!
TRUE, GARAN!

BUT THIS IS THE SYSTEM WHERE SUPERMAN DWELLS... ON THE PLANET EARTH! WE SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD MEMBERS HAVE BEEN BEATEN BY HIM SO OFTEN!
BAH! THERE IS NO RISK! I HAVE A PLAN TO PUT AN END TO OUR FOE!

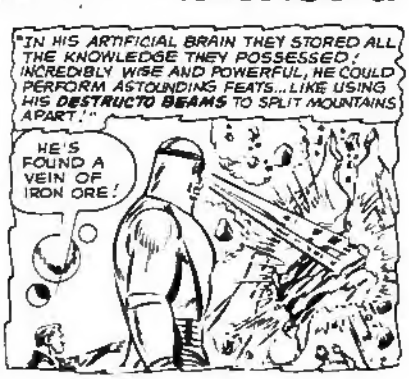
A PLAN? ARL, LOOK AROUND YOU! OBSERVE ALL THE MASSIVE AND POWERFUL WEAPONS, DEVICES AND TRAPS WE HAVE USED... EACH WITH AN "INFALLIBLE" PLAN TO GO WITH IT! EACH ONE WAS DEFEATED BY THE MAN OF STEEL... AT GREAT EXPENSE IN MEN, TIME AND TREASURE TO US!
YES, WE HAVE ALWAYS FAILED! BUT MY PLAN IS DIFFERENT!
DO NOT SCOFF UNTIL YOU HEAR IT, GARAN!
KRYPTONITE CHARGES

LISTEN! I HAVE RESEARCHED THROUGH THE HISTORY OF SUPERMAN'S ADOPTED PLANET, EARTH, WITH OUR TIME VIEWER! I HAVE FOUND SOMETHING VERY INTERESTING ABOUT A BILLION YEARS AGO, ON EARTH, EXISTED THE XAN...


"THE XAN, WERE A SUPER-CIVILIZATION OF TALL, HANDSOME PEOPLE, WHO LIVED IN MIGHTY SKY-CITIES BUILT BY THEIR SUPER-SCIENCE..."


"THEY WERE ALSO SKILLED ROBOT AND ANDROID MAKERS! THEY HAD CONSTRUCTED MANY DIFFERENT TYPES, FOR LABOUR AND HIGHER FUNCTIONS... BUT THEIR CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT WAS... ETERNO!"
KEEP APPLYING THE SUNTHOFLESH TO HIS ROBOT FRAME!
ANDROID BRAIN IS READY FOR ENCASEMENT IN THE ROBOT HEAD!

"ETERNO STOOD NEARLY 50 FEET HIGH... HE WAS HALF ANDROID, HALF ROBOT, WITH THE ADVANTAGES OF BOTH! HE WAS CONSTRUCTED TO BE IMMORTAL... ETERNAL, THE ENERGY OF THE STARS, HARNESSED BY XAN SCIENCE, WAS BUILT INTO HIS INVULNERABLE BODY..."


"IN HIS ARTIFICIAL BRAIN THEY STORED ALL THE KNOWLEDGE THEY POSSESSED! INCREDIBLY WISE AND POWERFUL, HE COULD PERFORM ASTOUNDING FEATS... LIKE USING HIS DESTRUCTO BEAMS TO SPLIT MOUNTAINS APART!"
HE'S FOUND A VEIN OF IRON ORE!

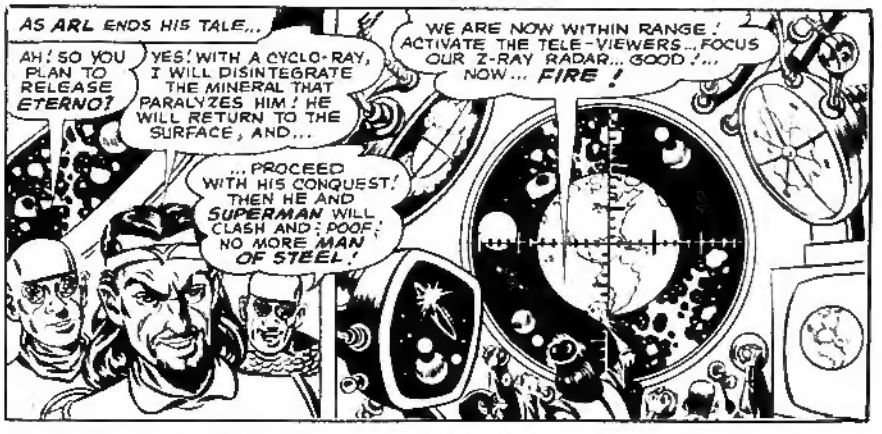
"BUT ETERNO WAS TOO WISE... TOO POWERFUL! HE SECRETLY PLANNED TO CONQUER EARTH!"
PUT THE NEW BRIDGE THERE!
I WILL BIDE MY TIME! AND SOON I WILL BE THE MASTER AND THESE TINY CREATURES WILL BE MY SUBJECTS!

"HOWEVER, BEFORE HE COULD STRIKE, A DIFFERENT DISASTER OVERTOOK THE XAN, IN THE FORM OF A CLOUD OF SPACE GAS, WHICH DRIFTED TO EARTH..."

"THE XAN QUICKLY DISCOVERED THE NATURE OF THE MENACE..."
THE GAS WILL WIPE US OUT! ONLY THE LIFE IN THE SEA WILL SURVIVE! WE HAVE JUST A SHORT TIME!
THE ELEMENT ABSORBIUM COULD SOAK UP THE GAS... BUT IT EXISTS ONLY AT THE EARTH'S CORE!
I WOULD SURVIVE... BUT A RULER NEEDS SUBJECTS!
I WILL GET THE ABSORBIUM FOR YOU!

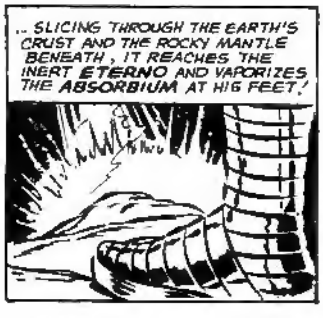
"SO ETERNO USED HIS DESTRUCTO-BEAM TO BLAST HIS WAY 4,000 MILES TO THE CENTER OF THE EARTH, TO SAVE THE RACE HE PLANNED TO CONQUER!"

"HE REACHED THE EARTH'S CORE, BUT DUE TO SOME STRANGE PROPERTY OF ABSORBIUM, IT PARALYZED HIM... AND THE XAN SLOWLY DIED OUT..."
CAN'T... MOVE!


AS ARL ENDS HIS TALE...
AH! SO YOU PLAN TO RELEASE ETERNO?
YES! WITH A CYCLO-RAY, I WILL DISINTEGRATE THE MINERAL THAT PARALYZES HIM! HE WILL RETURN TO THE SURFACE, AND...
... PROCEED WITH HIS CONQUEST! THEN HE AND SUPERMAN WILL CLASH AND: POOF! NO MORE MAN OF STEEL!
WE ARE NOW WITHIN RANGE! ACTIVATE THE TELE-VIEWERS... FOCUS OUR Z-RAY RADAR... GOOD!... NOW... FIRE!

THE SEARING RAY SPURTS FROM THE SIDE OF THE SHIP... AND CUTS A SWATH THROUGH SPACE...

... IT ENTERS OUR ATMOSPHERE... THEN CLEAVES THE OCEAN'S WATERS...


... SLICING THROUGH THE EARTH'S CRUST AND THE ROCKY MANTLE BENEATH, IT REACHES THE INERT ETERNO AND VAPORIZES THE ABSORBIUM AT HIS FEET!

FREE... AFTER ALL THESE EONS... FREE!

SUDDENLY, THE COLOSSUS TURNS, AND WITH THE POWER OF 100 SUNS UNLEASHED, HE BORES THROUGH THE INNER CORE'S WALL, AND DISS HUNGRILY TOWARD THE SURFACE, AIR... AND SUNLIGHT!

HOURS LATER, IN AN OBSERVATORY HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS NEAR METROPOLIS...
I'VE HEARD SUBTERRANEAN RUMBLINGS ALL MORNING! AND MY SEISMOGRAPH'S BEEN GOING WILD! BUT EARTHQUAKES ARE RARE AROUND HERE! WHAT CAN... HUH? IS THAT MOUNTAIN MOVING?
R-R-R-U-MMBLE

THEN...
BLAMM!
GREAT THUNDER! IT CAN'T BE A VOLCANIC ERUPTION... NOT HERE!

GREAT SCOTT! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... BUT IT'S REAL!

IN BLIND PANIC, THE SCIENTIST DASHES TO HIS CAR AND SPEEDS OFF, JUST AS...
KRRUMP!
IT'S REACHED THE OBSERVATORY! L-LOOK WHAT IT'S DOING TO THE GIANT TELESCOPE!

LATER, AT REPORTER CLARK KENT'S DESK, IN THE OFFICE OF THE DAILY PLANET...
I FELT SOME EARTH TREMORS EARLIER! I'D BETTER BE ON THE ALERT FOR... SAY, WHAT'S THAT OUTSIDE?

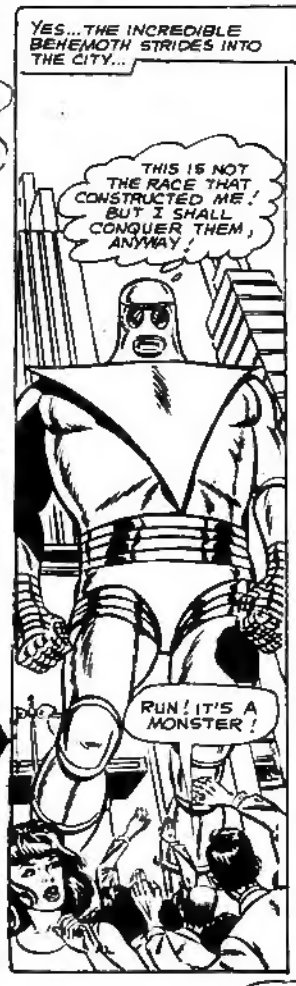
A HELICOPTER... BROADCASTING A CALL FOR SUPERMAN!
POLICE
20
SUPERMAN— PLEASE REPORT TO THE METROPOLIS SCIENCE INSTITUTE.. URGENT!

YOU HEARD THAT, DIDN'T YOU, CLARK? GET OVER THERE... ON THE DOUBLE! WE COULD USE A HOT HEAD-LINE ON THE P.M. EDITION!
CHECK, PERRY!
I WONDER WHAT'S UP?
PERRY WHITE
EDITOR

SLIPPING INTO A STOCK ROOM, CLARK MAKES A LIGHTNING-SWIFT CHANGE, AND...
I'LL GET OVER THERE, ALL RIGHT... BUT AS SUPERMAN!

I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY, DR. HARTMAN! SUPPOSE WE CAN'T CONTACT SUPERMAN?
YOU ALREADY HAVE, GENTLEMEN!
THANK HEAVEN YOU ARRIVED!

SUPERMAN, WE CALLED YOU HERE TO WARN YOU THAT OUR CITY..THE WHOLE WORLD... MAY BE FACING DISASTER! ONLY YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO STOP THIS MENACE!
I WAS THE FIRST TO SEE IT! ITS SIZE AND STRENGTH ARE INDESCRIBABLE!
IF ITS WHAT MY TELE-SCOPIC VISION JUST SPOTTED, THEN IT'S NOW ENTERING METROPOLIS!
SCIENCE INSTI

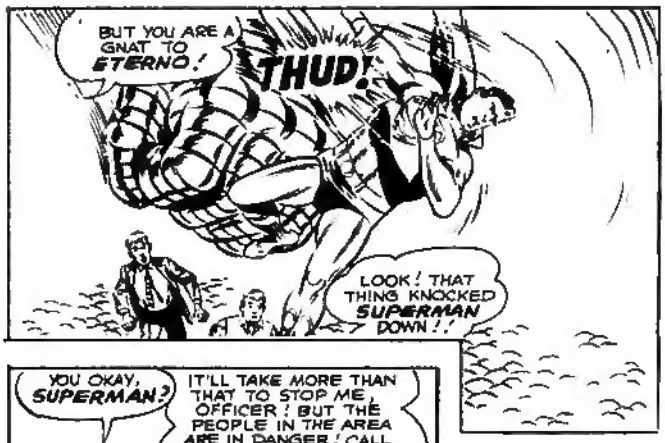

YES... THE INCREDIBLE BEHEMOTH STRIDES INTO THE CITY...
THIS IS NOT THE RACE THAT CONSTRUCTED ME! BUT I SHALL CONQUER THEM, ANYWAY!
RUN! IT'S A MONSTER!

THEIR SPEECH IS STRANGE, BUT MY MIGHTY BRAIN HAS DECIPHERED IT!
YOU FLEE, DO YOU? I WILL GIVE YOU SOMETHING FROM WHICH TO FLEE!
RR-HH-HH-IP!
IT'S TEARING THE TOP OFF THAT DESERTED BUILDING!

SCATTER! HA, HA! NO ONE DARES OPPOSE ETERNO!
LOOK OUT! HE'S GOING TO THROW IT!

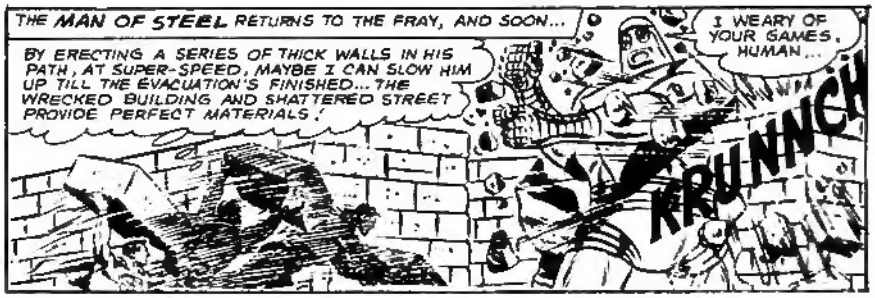
BUT AS THE STRUCTURE IS HURLED, A RED AND BLUE STREAK FLASHES IN TO INTERCEPT IT!
SUPERMAN!... IN THE NICK OF TIME!
WHOA, BIG FELLA! IF IT'S AN OPPONENT YOU WANT, MEET THE NUMBER ONE CHALLENGER!
YOU SMASHED THE BUILDING TO PIECES! HOW CAN A MERE HUMAN HAVE SUCH POWER?
WHOOOSH!
CR-RASHH!

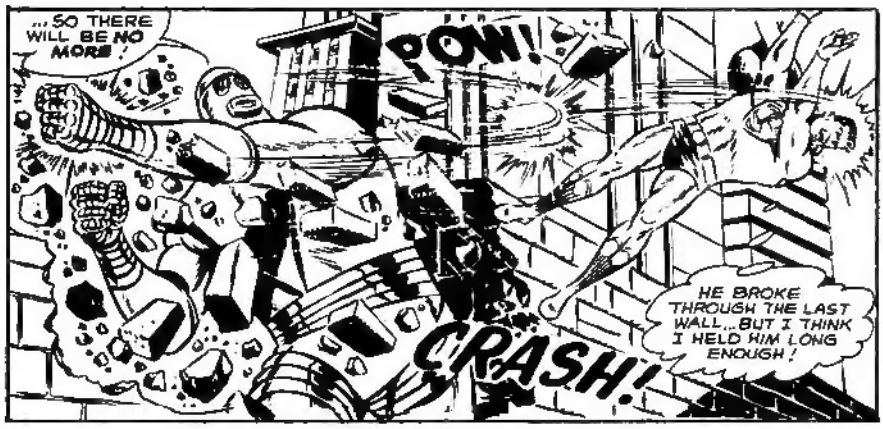
I SHATTERED THE BUILDING AGAINST HIM, BUT THE IMPACT DIDN'T EVEN FAZE THIS BRUTE! I'LL TRY AGAIN!
THE OTHER HUMANS ARE WEAK...ONLY YOU DARE ATTACK... YOU ARE INDEED MIGHTY...


BUT YOU ARE A GNAT TO ETERNO!
THUD!
LOOK! THAT THING KNOCKED SUPERMAN DOWN!!

HE SLAMMED AGAINST THE PAVEMENT SO HARD, HE CRACKED IT!
KR-RAK!

YOU OKAY, SUPERMAN?
IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN THAT TO STOP ME, OFFICER! BUT THE PEOPLE IN THE AREA ARE IN DANGER! CALL THE AUTHORITIES AND GET THE PLACE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY!

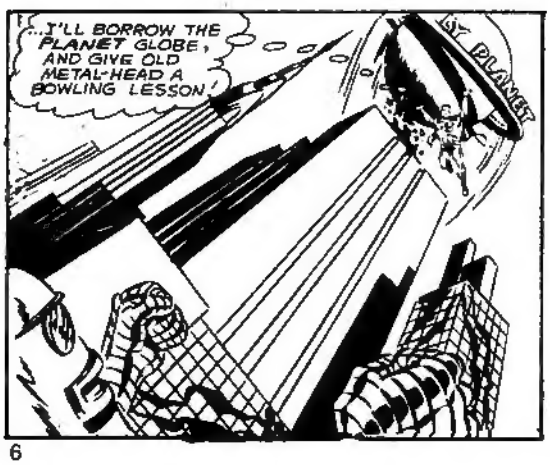

THE MAN OF STEEL RETURNS TO THE FRAY, AND SOON...
BY ERECTING A SERIES OF THICK WALLS IN HIS PATH, AT SUPER-SPEED, MAYBE I CAN SLOW HIM UP TILL THE EVACUATION'S FINISHED... THE WRECKED BUILDING AND SHATTERED STREET PROVIDE PERFECT MATERIALS!
I WEARY OF YOUR GAMES, HUMAN...
KRUNNCH

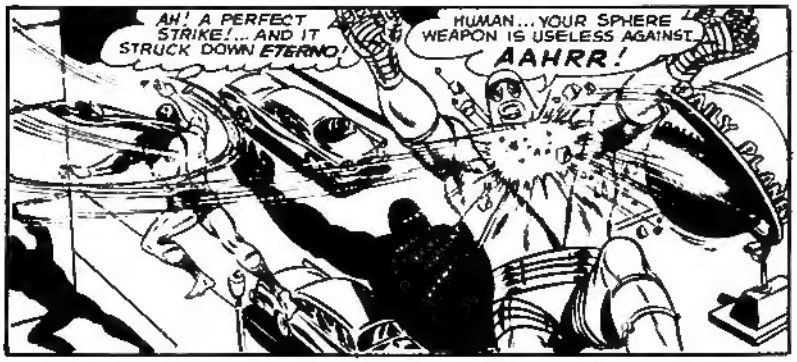

...SO THERE WILL BE NO MORE!
POW!
HE BROKE THROUGH THE LAST WALL... BUT I THINK I HELD HIM LONG ENOUGH!
CRASH!

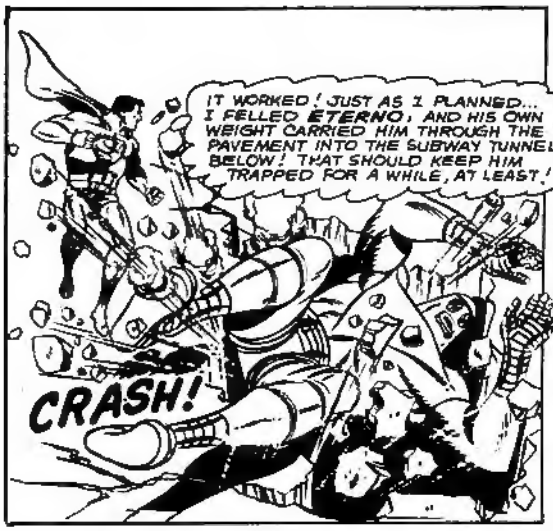
AH! I SEE YOUR PLAN, MORTAL! YOU KEPT ME AT BAY WHILE YOUR FELLOW HUMANS ESCAPED! IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD! I WILL EVENTUALLY FIND THEM... AND CONQUER THEM... AS I WILL ALL YOUR PEOPLE! BUT FIRST...

...I WILL END YOUR PETTY INTERFERENCE!
IN A PIG'S EYE YOU WILL!
BLAZING COMETS! I HIT HIM WITH ALL I GOT, BUT HE BARELY NOTICED IT!

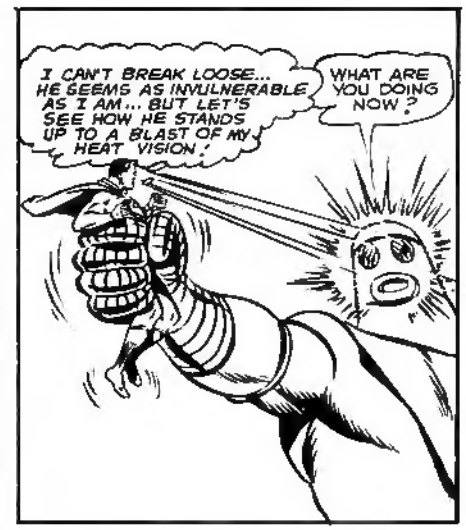
I HAVE A PLAN! I CAN FLY, WHILE ETERNO IS "GROUNDED"! SO IF I CAN JUST KEEP OUT OF HIS REACH FOR A MINUTE, AND GET TO THE TOP OF THE DAILY PLANET BUILDING!


...I'LL BORROW THE PLANET GLOBE, AND GIVE OLD METAL-HEAD A BOWLING LESSON!
DAILY PLANET


AH! A PERFECT STRIKE!... AND IT STRUCK DOWN ETERNO!
HUMAN... YOUR SPHERE WEAPON IS USELESS AGAINST...
AAHRR!
DAILY PLANET


IT WORKED! JUST AS I PLANNED... I FELLED ETERNO, AND HIS OWN WEIGHT CARRIED HIM THROUGH THE PAVEMENT INTO THE SUBWAY TUNNEL BELOW! THAT SHOULD KEEP HIM TRAPPED FOR A WHILE, AT LEAST!
CRASH!

BUT SUDDENLY...
UHHH! HE RECOVERED IN TIME TO GRAB ME!
A VALIANT TRY, HUMAN! BUT NOT ENOUGH TO STOP ETERNO!

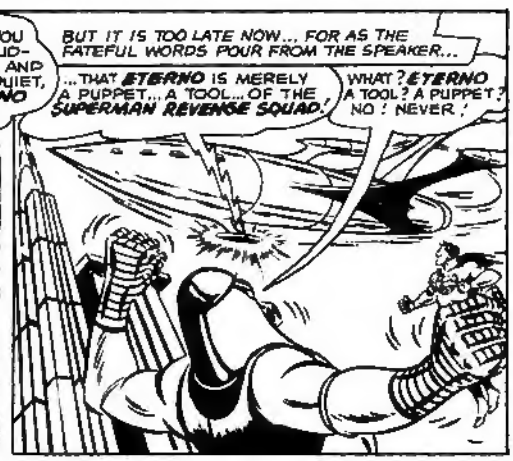

I CAN'T BREAK LOOSE... HE SEEMS AS INVULNERABLE AS I AM... BUT LET'S SEE HOW HE STANDS UP TO A BLAST OF MY HEAT VISION!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING NOW?

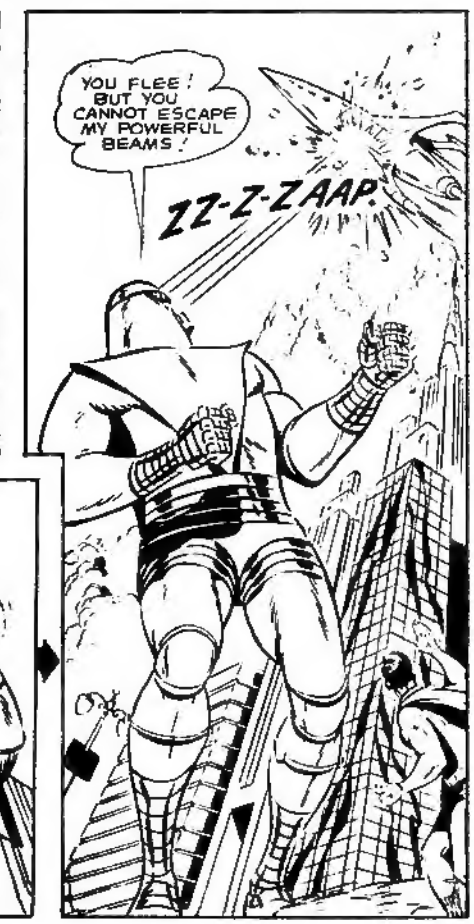
MORE OF YOUR COMEDY, EH? THOSE PITIFUL RAYS ARE NO MATCH FOR MY DESTRUCTO BEAMS!
IT'S TRUE! HIS BEAMS ARE CANCELING OUT MINE!

WHEW! THAT'S A MIGHTY STRONG BLAST... BUT I CAN WEATHER IT!
IMPOSSIBLE! NO MERE HUMAN CAN ENDURE MY DESTRUCTO BEAMS!

AND IN THE REVENGE SQUAD SHIP...
YOU'RE TAKING US TOO LOW, GARAN! WE'RE WITHIN SUPERMAN'S IMMEDIATE VIEW! IF HE SHOULD DEFEAT ETERNO...!
THERE'S NO CHANCE OF THAT HAPPENING! SOONER OR LATER, ETERNO WILL TRIUMPH OVER OUR FOE... AND I WANT TO BE WATCHING... IN PERSON!

HOW I'D LIKE TO TELL SUPERMAN THAT ETERNO IS MERELY A PUPPET... A TOOL... OF THE SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD! OUR SUPER-ENEMY FOILED OUR PLANS TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS! BUT NOW WE'LL...
GARAN! FOOL! YOU STRUCK THE LOUD-SPEAKER SWITCH AND TURNED IT ON! QUIET, BEFORE ETERNO HEARS YOU!


BUT IT IS TOO LATE NOW... FOR AS THE FATEFUL WORDS POUR FROM THE SPEAKER...
...THAT ETERNO IS MERELY A PUPPET... A TOOL... OF THE SUPERMAN REVENGE SQUAD!
WHAT? ETERNO A TOOL? A PUPPET? NO! NEVER!


YOU FLEE! BUT YOU CANNOT ESCAPE MY POWERFUL BEAMS!
ZZ-Z-ZAAP!

NO ONE CONTROLS ETERNO! I AM NO ONE'S TOOL! I WILL DESTROY ANYONE WHO DARES CALL ETERNO A PUPPET!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW? OLD IRON FACE IS TOSSING ME ASIDE TO TAKE ON THAT SHIP!

QUICKLY! TAKE EVASIVE ACTION! ETERNO CAN'T FOLLOW US INTO SPACE!

INSIDE THE CRAFT...
AAIIEEE!
LOOK OUT! ETERNO'S DISABLED OUR SHIP WITH HIS DESTRUCTO BEAMS! PREPARE FOR CRASH LANDING!

THE MASSIVE SHIP GUIDES DOWN BETWEEN THE SKYSCRAPERS OF METROPOLIS, AND...
CRASH!

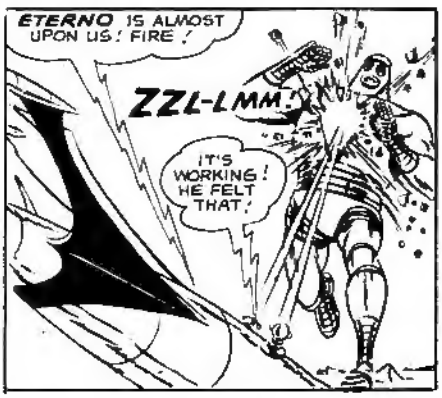
SECONDS LATER...
THAT'S A REVENGE SQUAD SHIP, ALL RIGHT! I RECOGNIZE IT! AND ACCORDING TO THEIR LOUD-SPEAKER BOAST, THEY'RE BEHIND ETERNO...ONLY HE SURE DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA!

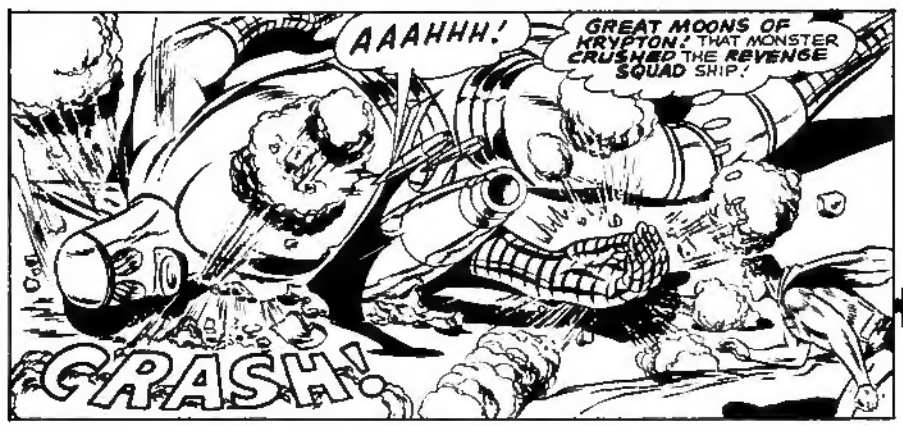
HURRY! MAN OUR NEW, EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS! ETERNO IS CHARGING THE SHIP! WE CANNOT MISS A TARGET THAT HUGE! NOW... FIRE!

IT'S NO USE! OUR MOST POWERFUL BLASTS HAVE NO EFFECT ON HIM!
ZA-P
ZZ-ZAP
WHAM!

WE HAVEN'T A CHANCE! ETERNO IS INVULNERABLE! HE HAS NO WEAKNESSES!
HE HAS ONE! WHAT KEPT HIM IMMOBILE FOR A BILLION YEARS?

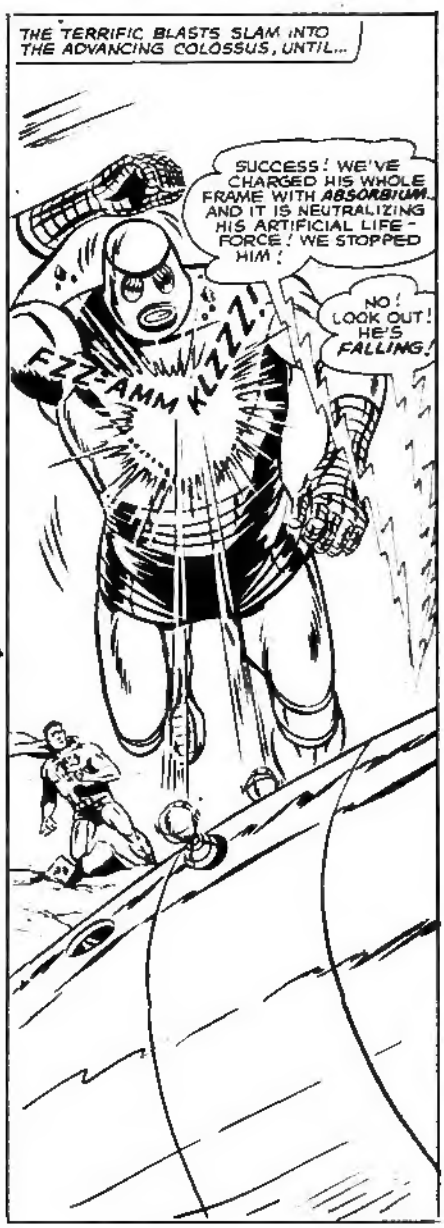
ABSORBIUM! BUT WE HAVE NOT A SINGLE GRAM OF IT!
OUR ATOMIC TRANSMUTER WILL CHANGE THESE NUCLEAR CAPSULES TO ABSORBIUM! THEN WE CAN INSERT THEM IN OUR GUNS... IF WE MOVE FAST!


ETERNO IS ALMOST UPON US! FIRE!
ZZL-LMM!
IT'S WORKING! HE FELT THAT!


AAAHHH!
GREAT MOONS OF KRYPTON! THAT MONSTER CRUSHED THE REVENGE SQUAD SHIP!
CRASH!

I MUST LIFT ETERNO AND CHECK THE WRECKAGE FOR SURVIVORS!

NONE OF THEM CAME THROUGH ALIVE! BUT THESE RECORDS TELL HOW THE REVENGE SQUAD RELEASED ETERNO FROM THE EARTH'S CORE! HOW IRONIC... BY DESTROYING HIM, THEY DESTROYED THEMSELVES!
THE END


THE TERRIFIC BLASTS SLAM INTO THE ADVANCING COLOSSUS, UNTIL...
SUCCESS! WE'VE CHARGED HIS WHOLE FRAME WITH ABSORBIUM... AND IT IS NEUTRALIZING HIS ARTIFICIAL LIFE-FORCE! WE STOPPED HIM!
NO! LOOK OUT! HE'S FALLING!
FZZ-AMM KLZZZ!

BATMAN ROBIN

LIGHT shone from the tower of City Hall in Gotham City and Batman, in the Batmobile, snapped into superdrive. With one hand he switched in the radio to stately Wayne Manor and heard Robin's voice. "The hurry-call from the Commissioner, Robin," Batman jerked. "Meet me in his office. No more information. Over and out!"

When the Batmobile roared up to City Hall, Batman saw at once that something peculiar was afoot. There were people rolling about on the sidewalks laughing their heads off, while others leaned against walls and lampposts chortling with tears rolling down their cheeks. Batman gathered his cloak round him and swept into the building.

He ran into the Commissioner's office. To his amazement Commissioner Gordon and Police Chief O'Hara were clasped in each other's arms, laughing and weeping. To his great surprise, he himself began to laugh.

STRANGE SMELL

It surprised him so much that it shocked him out of it. There was a strange smell in the room, the same as he had noticed outside. "What's the trouble, Commissioner?" he laughed.

Gordon turned to him with tears of mirth flowing down his cheeks. "No trouble at all now, Batman, everything hunky-dory. Isn't this a grand day? We switched on the beacon by mistake. Join in the fun, Batman."

"Begorrah, Batman," sobbed Chief O'Hara. "We're going to have some fun in the city this day. All the darling folks are going to deck themselves in all their jewellery and come to City Hall for a dance. You must come too."

Batman burst out laughing. "I might just do that. It certainly is a fine and happy day. But who's this ugly creature here?"

Batman recognised Robin only by his clothes. On his head was a Batmask and another was in his hand. "Batman," came his hollow voice through the mask, "put this on, you'll need it. Holy harpstrings! There's mayhem and robbery loose in the city today."

"But I feel happy, Boy Wonder," chuckled Batman. "Hey you can't do that." As Robin clapped the Batmask over his head he gulped twice and his head cleared. He peered through the faceplate at his young partner. "What is all this, Robin?"

The JOKER SPRINGS A GASSER

"Laughing gas, Batman," came Robin's voice. "Coming through every pipe in the city. People all over are giving way to it and laughing helplessly."

"*Who,* Robin?" came Batman's muffled voice. "Which of the villains in this city is doing this, and why?"

"Not had time to think yet, Batman. We could go back to the Batcave and set up the Hyper Spectrograph Analysis Indicator, if you like."

"Take too long, Robin," snapped Batman. "I have a feeling that this office is the centre of this affair."

"How right you are, Batman," came a crackling voice from the window. There stood on the sill a strange figure, but one they knew well. Clad in a long tailcoat, his face white, his lips scarlet,

his hair a mop of vivid green, his mouth a broad grin of fiendish mirth, stood the Joker! The Prince of Jesters stepped down to the carpet and strolled over towards Batman and Robin. Behind him waddled his two aides, Moonface and Dogface, and they were holding pistols on the Dynamic Duo.

"A merry, rollicking jest, I think, Batman," cackled the Joker. "Everyone in the city is as happy as a king and my call will go out over all the radio networks. You will soon see the people coming to City Hall, clad in their richest finery. They will laugh and make merry while my nimble henchmen circulate among them and relieve them of their jewellery. Then the gas will be turned off and the people will be poorer, wiser and not so happy. But I, the Joker, the Clown Prince of Crime, will be rich. My minions, the masquerade is over. Take off their masks!"

Robin struggled but Batman held him back. The Batmasks were torn off and the pair were flung into a corner. They set off laughing as the gas hit them but Batman struggled to keep his senses.

The Joker put his arm around the shoulders of the laughing, weeping Commissioner Gordon and led him to the microphone on the desk. The Dynamic Duo heard the call go out in a laughing, helpless voice.

GORDON'S CALL

"People of Gotham City," chortled Gordon. "Deck yourselves in your finest gems and jewellery and come to the carnival we are arranging at City Hall. Come quickly, the carnival is about to start."

"Now boys," said the Joker. "We will relieve the good folks of Gotham City of their baubles, bangles and beads and we will then haste away to some place where we can be secure to enjoy yourselves for ever in the sun. That pestiferous Dynamic Duo are out of the way and we can plunder at will."

"You know, Robin," muttered Batman. "Something odd here. Why aren't these thugs laughing? They aren't getting the gas! Why not?"

"Why worry, Batman?" laughed Boy wonder. "Be happy, enjoy yourself. It's a fine and happy day."

"Stop breathing in, Robin," snapped Batman and he too held his breath. His head cleared and he made a titanic effort and flung himself at the Joker. The villain, taken completely by surprise gave back before him. Moonface and Dogface hovered, waving their guns, fearful of firing in case they shot their master.

Batman's fingers clamped on the Joker's throat and then he released one hand and groped for the pasty white nose of the Clown Prince of Crime. As he had suspected there was something in the nostrils. He pulled it out and the Joker gulped as Batman released the pressure of his other hand. Then the villain cackled and spluttered and rolled on the floor.

"A *stunning* jest, you will agree, Caped Crusader," he sobbed. "Soon we will be on our merry way with a cartload of sparklers."

INTO ACTION

"Robin!" bawled Batman, and Boy Wonder swung into action. Moonface took a karate chop on the neck and Robin's left hook dug hard into Dogface's stomach. The minions howled and Robin picked up their guns, then he too went for their noses and pulled out the tiny filters by which the trio had avoided the laughing gas. Soon all three were rolling on the floor, laughing and sobbing like the Commissioner and Chief O'Hara.

"To the gasworks, Robin!" bellowed Batman and they ran down and leaped into the Batmobile. It took them just a half-hour to release the officials at the gasworks, disconnect the cylinders of laughing gas and reconnect the normal supply. The wind would clear away the gas in the city air.

Back at City Hall, they found a wet-eyed Commissioner and a mumbling Chief wondering what had been happening. Riot police had secured the three delinquents. The Joker was still cackling, not from the laughing gas but in his normal jeering manner.

"What *is* all this, Batman?" groaned the Commissioner, wiping his eyes.

"Begob, Batman," said O'Hara. "I feel as if I'd wakened from a dream."

"We've all wakened from that," Batman said grimly. "And only just in time. The wealth of Gotham City was in danger. Joker, that was a smart scheme but you ought to know better than to tangle with the Dynamic Duo."

JOKER'S THREAT

"There will come another time, Caped Crusader," chuckled the unrepenting Joker. "We three will have many a merry battle in the future."

Robin turned to Commissioner Gordon. "Holy handouts, Commissioner. You asked what this was all about. It was a 'gasser' arranged by our felonious foe, the Joker. But it turned out a 'gastly' failure, didn't it."

Batman grinned at the awful pun and said to Robin, "Definitely *not* good thinking that time, Teenage Thunderbolt!"

HEROES ALL

William EverybodyTalksAbout, a Navajo Indian serving as a US Marine in Vietnam, was promoted corporal after capturing three enemy in 1969.

Saloman Andree, a Swedish explorer, tried to reach the North Pole by balloon in 1897 but was not heard of again until his body was found on an island in 1930.

General Orde Wingate, leader of the Chindits who fought behind Japanese lines in Burma in World War Two, died in an air crash in 1944.

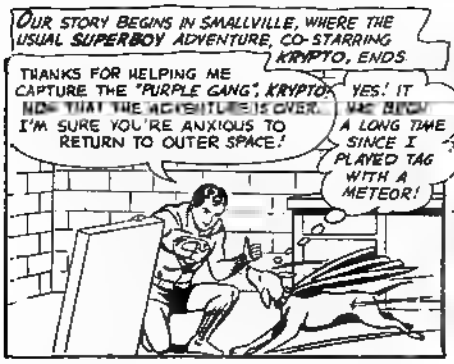
Horatio Nelson, victor of Trafalgar, went to sea as a boy of 12 and was a post-captain at 21.

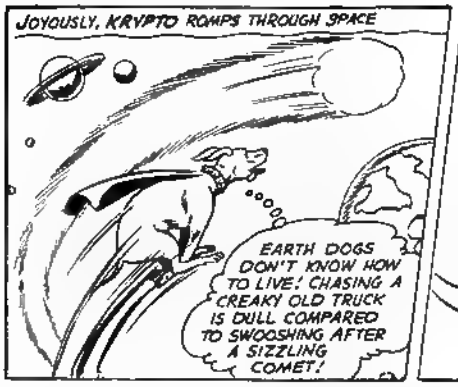
SUPERBOY

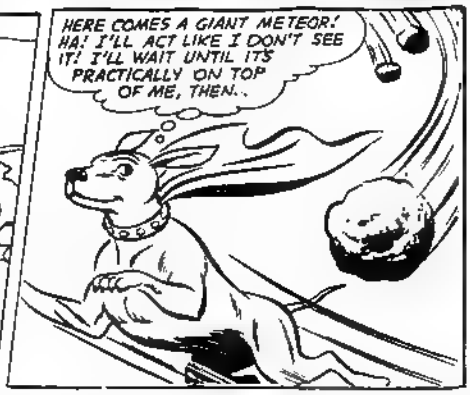
The ADVENTURES of SUPERMAN WHEN HE WAS A BOY

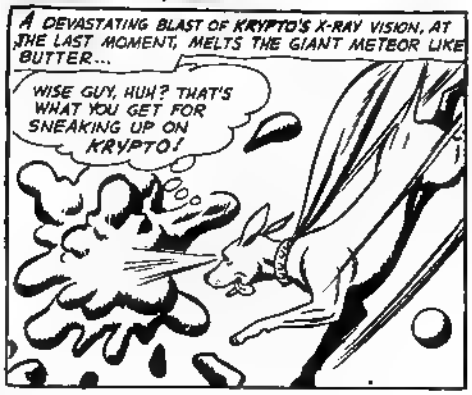
WHEN NOT ADVENTURING ON EARTH WITH HIS MASTER SUPERBOY, KRYPTO, THE DOG OF STEEL, ROMPS OFF AMONG THE STARS. HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHAT HAPPENS TO KRYPTO IN OUTER SPACE? WHAT ARE HIS SOMETIMES THRILLING, AND SOMETIMES COMIC EXPLOITS FAR OFF IN THE COSMOS! NOW, IN RESPONSE TO THOUSANDS OF REQUESTS, WE PRESENT, FOR THE FIRST TIME, AN EPISODE FEATURING The

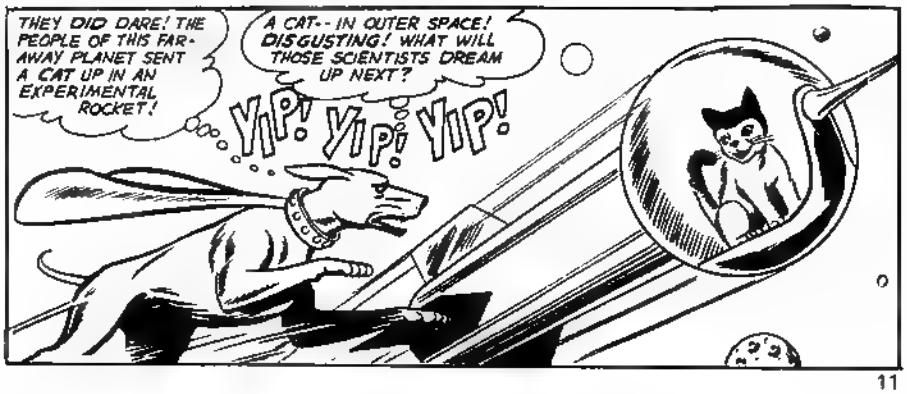
SPACE ADVENTURES OF KRYPTO!

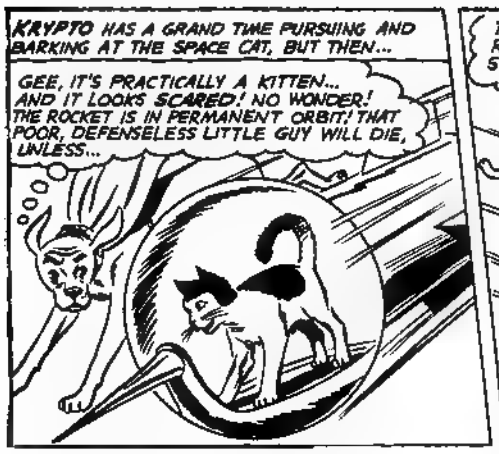


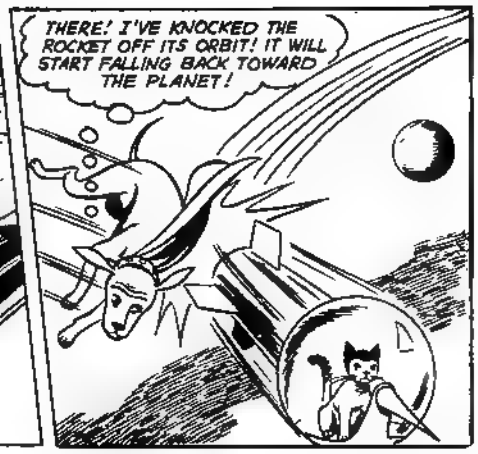




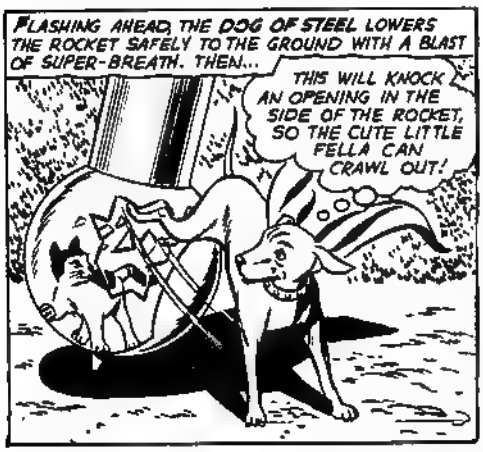





KRYPTO HAS A GRAND TIME PURSUING AND BARKING AT THE SPACE CAT, BUT THEN...
GEE, IT'S PRACTICALLY A KITTEN... AND IT LOOKS SCARED! NO WONDER! THE ROCKET IS IN PERMANENT ORBIT! THAT POOR, DEFENSELESS LITTLE GUY WILL DIE, UNLESS...


THERE! I'VE KNOCKED THE ROCKET OFF ITS ORBIT! IT WILL START FALLING BACK TOWARD THE PLANET!

IT'S FALLING TOO FAST! IT'S TURNING RED HOT! I'LL SLOW IT WITH MY VACUUM-BREATH, BEFORE IT BURNS TO A CINDER!


FLASHING AHEAD, THE DOG OF STEEL LOWERS THE ROCKET SAFELY TO THE GROUND WITH A BLAST OF SUPER-BREATH. THEN...
THIS WILL KNOCK AN OPENING IN THE SIDE OF THE ROCKET, SO THE CUTE LITTLE FELLA CAN CRAWL OUT!

LOOK AT HIM, WAGGING HIS TAIL! HE SENSES I SAVED HIS LIFE! HM-MM! THIS WILL NEVER DO! IF THE WORD GETS OUT THAT I SAVED A CAT, NO SELF-RESPECTING DOG WILL EVER HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH ME... I'LL ACT TOUGH!
GRRRR
IT WORKED! LOOK AT HIM SCOOT OFF!.. KRYPTO, YOU CLEVER DOG, YOU! NO ONE WILL EVER SUSPECT YOU'RE REALLY A SOFTIE AT HEART!

LATER, THE SPACE POOCH ALIGHTS ON ANOTHER WORLD..
OBVIOUSLY, THAT THING IS A HUNTER'S TRAP! I'LL STEP INSIDE, FOR LAUGHS!

AND AS THE TRAP SPRINGS SHUT...
THE MEN WHO SET THE TRAP! NOW TO GIVE THEM A BIG FAT SURPRISE!
CLANG!

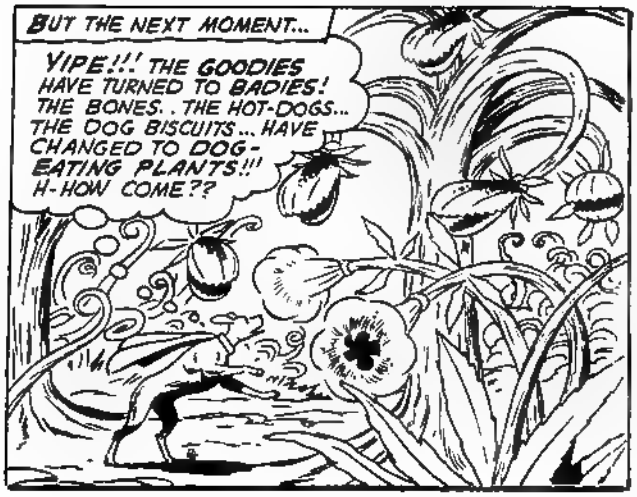
LEAPING THROUGH THE METAL BARS IS A CINCH FOR ME! LOOK! THEY'RE BOWING! OBVIOUSLY, I'VE MADE QUITE A HIT WITH THEM!

THEY WANT ME TO GO WITH THEM! I'LL PLAY ALONG WITH THE GAG! THEY CERTAINLY SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF RESPECT FOR ME!

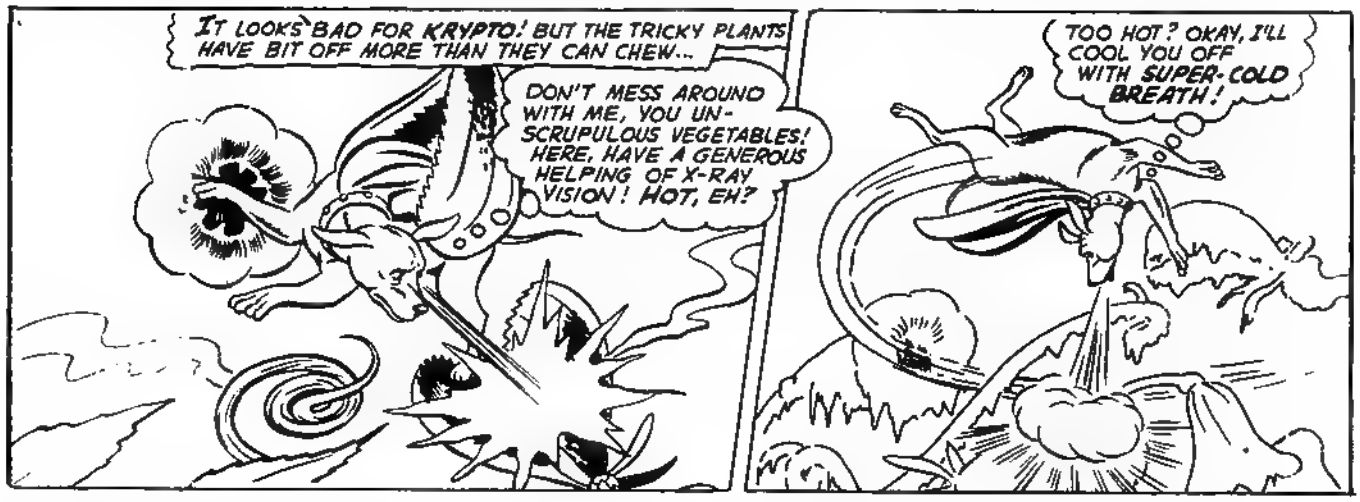
DOZENS OF DOG STATUES, EVERYWHERE! I GET IT! DOGS ARE LIKE HEROES ON THIS WORLD! SO THAT'S WHY THEY CAPTURED ME! AND THAT PICTURE OF A DOG CRASHING OUT OF A TRAP... I MUST HAVE MADE A PROPHECY COME TRUE!

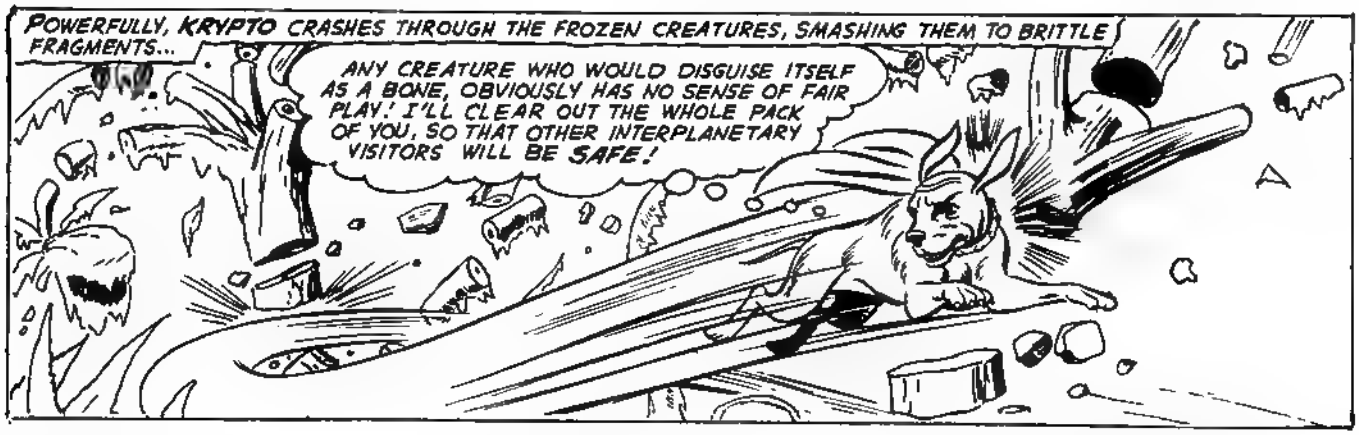
SIZZLING HOT-DOGS! THEY'VE GIVEN ME A CROWN! I'M THEIR KING! BOY, THIS SET-UP APPEALS TO ME! "KRYPTO, DOG KING!" SUPERBOY WOULD SURE BE PROUD OF ME, IF HE KNEW!

WOW! LOOK AT THOSE EATS! AND THEY'RE ALL FOR ME! THIS GETS BETTER, AS IT GOES ALONG!
A MUSICAL SPECTACLE, STAGED FOR "HIS IMPERIAL DOGSHIP"! SAY, MAYBE I'VE UNDERESTIMATED MYSELF. OVERLOOKED THE SEEDS OF GREATNESS IN ME! WAS I BORN TO RULE?
AND NOW... THEY'RE BRINGING ME JEWELS! WHY NOT? I'M THE KING, AM I NOT? NOTHING'S TOO GOOD FOR KING KRYPTO!!
THEY'RE SCURRYING AROUND EXCITEDLY! THEY'RE PROBABLY GOING TO BRING ME THE MOST VALUABLE THING ON THIS WHOLE PLANET!
"HIS IMPERIAL DOGSHIP" IS RIGHT! BUT, THE PLANET'S RICHEST PRIZE, A METEOR FRAGMENT, TURNS OUT TO BE...
YIPE!!
KRYPTONITE! THE ONE SUBSTANCE, IN THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, WHICH CAN BRING DEATH TO THE OTHERWISE INVULNERABLE DOG OF STEEL!
¡GASP!¡ I'M W-WEAK AND GETTING WEAKER EVERY SECOND! THE FOOLS! ¡GASP!¡ THEY DON'T KNOW THEIR GLORIOUS PRESENT IS KILLING ME!!!
HOW IRONIC! FROM KING TO CORPSE, IN MINUTES, UNLESS KRYPTO CAN SOMEHOW ESCAPE THE DEADLY KRYPTONITE!
IF I COULD ONLY SPEAK! THERE THEY STAND, DISMAYED AT THE SIGHT OF ME DYING ¡GASP!¡ I'VE GOT TO GET BEYOND THE REACH OF THAT KRYPTONITE!
WITH ONLY MINUTES OF LIFE REMAINING, KRYPTO TRIES SOME DESPERATE STRATEGY.
I'VE GOT IT! I'LL HOLD MY BREATH FOR A MINUTE AND PLAY DEAD! BUT IF I DON'T GET AWAY FROM THAT KRYPTONITE QUICKLY, I'LL STOP BREATHING FOR REAL!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE DOG KING'S SUBJECTS SEE THAT THEIR RULER HAS "STOPPED BREATHING," THEY SADLY CARRY OFF THEIR APPARENTLY "DEAD" MONARCH.
¡GASP!¡ THE KRYPTONITE EFFECTS... ARE WEARING OFF. MY STRENGTH IS RETURNING!
BEYOND THE RANGE OF THE KRYPTONITE'S DEADLY RADIATIONS, KRYPTO RETURNS TO NORMAL, AND SUDDENLY SPRINGS SKYWARD.
THEY'RE SHOCKED SILLY! THEY WANT ME TO COME BACK AND RULE ONCE MORE. FAT CHANCE, WITH KRYPTONITE ON THEIR WORLD! I'VE LOST ALL DESIRE TO LIVE THE ROYAL LIFE!
LATER, KRYPTO STREAKS DOWN TOWARD THE SURFACE OF AN UNUSUAL ASTEROID...
FOOD! AND I'M STARVED AGAIN!
A MOUNTAIN OF BONES! A GROVE OF HOT-DOG TREES! HOUSES MADE OF DOG BISCUITS! WHEEEEEEE!
WHOA, THERE, BOY! THIS IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE! MAYBE I OUGHT TO PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY! MAYBE I SHOULD THINK THIS THING THROUGH TO A LOGICAL CONCLUSION! MAYBE
WHY BE LOGICAL WHEN MY STOMACH WANTS TO BE HUMOURED!


BUT THE NEXT MOMENT...
YIPE!!! THE GOODIES HAVE TURNED TO BADIES! THE BONES. . THE HOT-DOGS... THE DOG BISCUITS... HAVE CHANGED TO DOG-EATING PLANTS!!! H-HOW COME??

I GET IT! ON THIS ASTEROID, THESE PLANTS CAN CHANGE THEMSELVES INTO WHATEVER THEIR INTENDED VICTIM GREATLY DESIRES, IN ORDER TO LURE HIM INTO THEIR CLUTCHES!


IT LOOKS BAD FOR KRYPTO! BUT THE TRICKY PLANTS HAVE BIT OFF MORE THAN THEY CAN CHEW...
DON'T MESS AROUND WITH ME, YOU UN-SCRUPULOUS VEGETABLES! HERE, HAVE A GENEROUS HELPING OF X-RAY VISION! HOT, EH?
TOO HOT? OKAY, I'LL COOL YOU OFF WITH SUPER-COLD BREATH!


POWERFULLY, KRYPTO CRASHES THROUGH THE FROZEN CREATURES, SMASHING THEM TO BRITTLE FRAGMENTS...
ANY CREATURE WHO WOULD DISGUISE ITSELF AS A BONE, OBVIOUSLY HAS NO SENSE OF FAIR PLAY! I'LL CLEAR OUT THE WHOLE PACK OF YOU, SO THAT OTHER INTERPLANETARY VISITORS WILL BE SAFE!

LATER, ON EARTH, AS SUPERBOY FLASHES ALONG ON PATROL...
IT'S KRYPTO! HE'S RETURNED TO EARTH, FROM OUTER SPACE!
IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE MY MASTER AGAIN!

GOOD OLD KRYPTO! I WONDER WHAT MISCHIEF YOU'VE BEEN UP TO, AMONG THE STARS!
EVEN YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED, MASTER!
THE END.
YES, SUPERBOY WOULD INDEED BE SURPRISED! BUT WE KNOW WHAT HAPPENED, DON'T WE?

A postal order for 10s. goes to the writer of every letter published on this page each week.

I WONDER what other readers consider the most exciting story to have come out of World War Two. I've read scores of war stories – about fighter pilots and tank battles in the desert and secret agents dropped into occupied France. But, possibly because my Dad was in the Royal Navy, the one that excites me most is the story of the *Altmark* rescue.

"The Navy's here!"

With these words, Lieutenant Bradwell Turner and a boarding party from the destroyer *Cossack* freed 299 captive British sailors from the German ship *Altmark* in a Norwegian fjord in February 1940.

The Altmark, supply ship to the German battleship *Graf Spee*, was trying to make her way back to Germany. She had on board the crew of nine British Merchantmen sunk by the *Spee* – herself sunk in the Battle of the River Plate – in the South Atlantic.

She was spotted in Norwegian territorial waters by RAF planes. Intercepted by a destroyer flotilla under the command of Captain Vian, she took refuge in Josin Fjord, and the entrance was blocked by two Norwegian gunboats.

Captain Vian, in the destroyer *Cossack* demanded the right to board and search the ship. This was refused by the Norwegians, who claimed the *Altmark* had been examined three times since entering the Norwegian waters and no prisoners had been found.

The *Cossack* then steamed into the fjord. The *Altmark* tried to ram the destroyer, but ran aground. The *Cossack* forced her way alongside and a boarding party leapt across. After a hand-to-hand fight in which four Germans were killed and five wounded, the 299 British sailors were released and transferred to the destroyers.

Altmark continued in German Navy service until 1942 when she blew up while discharging oil at Yokohama. *Cossack*, still under the command of Captain Vian – later Admiral Sir Philip and Commander in Chief of the Home Fleet - played a big part in the battle of Narvik after the Germans had invaded Norway. She torpedoed the German battleship *Bismack* – and was herself torpedoed and sunk in the Atlantic in 1941.

GEORGE PERRY

Uttoxeter,
Staffs.

IF I take anybody up to my bedroom, no sooner do we get inside the door than he goes mad! For at the other end of my roon there are shelves and shelves of DC comic books. I have over 200.

I think *Super DC* is the greatest comic made in England and I will save *Super DC* and DC comic books for as long as I live. They're great!

Please, please and again please, would you please print some adventures of the Legion of Super Heroes starring Superboy? They are from the 30th century and they are great. Sometimes I think that the Legion are better than Superman. Also, please could you print a special pull-out of the inside of Superman's fortress?

PHILIP DAVIES

Truro,
Cornwall.

CAN you clear up a mystery about Batman's hot line to Commissioner Gordon. A friend says that anyone could discover Batman's identity by following the wire from Commissioner Gordon's office to the Batcave. Or maybe it's a radio link?

JOHN JARROTT

Hastings,
Sussex.

The hot-line machine was shown on American television to answer this point. There's a buzzer light on it and when the light goes off the hot-line switches immediately to another place in Gotham City. That's the story, anyway.

I HAVE got together some boys to form a club but we just cannot think of a suitable name for our club. Any suggestions?

CHRIS HAGGER

Peterborough,
Northants.

SOME people are football mad. I heard of a shopkeeper in Surrey who has a notice on his door, "Closed Saturday afternoon if Aldershot are playing at home."

JOHN CHARLESWORTH

Newark,
Notts.

QUIZ MASTER

Pictured above is the *Barrie*, a wartime Canadian corvette. What are, or were, the following warships? 1, *Vanguard*; 2, *Ark Royal*, 3, *Nautilus*, 4. *Enterprise*; 5, *Tirpitz*; 6, *Sverdlov*.

ANSWERS

1, British battleship; 2, British aircraft carrier; 3, American nuclear submarine; 4, American aircraft carrier; 5, German battleship; 6, Russian cruiser.

SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND LOIS LANE

THERE'S AN OLD THEORY THAT, AS IN THE STORY OF DR. JEKYLL AND MR. HYDE--EACH PERSON HAS TWO PERSONALITIES--ONE GOOD, ONE EVIL--AND THAT THEY BATTLE FOR CONTROL UNTIL ONE DOMINATES THE OTHER! THEORY... OR FACT? YOU'LL SOON SEE FOR YOURSELF, AS YOU WATCH A FAMILIAR FRIEND CHANGE FROM GOOD TO EVIL--FROM REPORTER TO ROBBER--TO BECOME KNOWN AS THE NOTORIOUS..

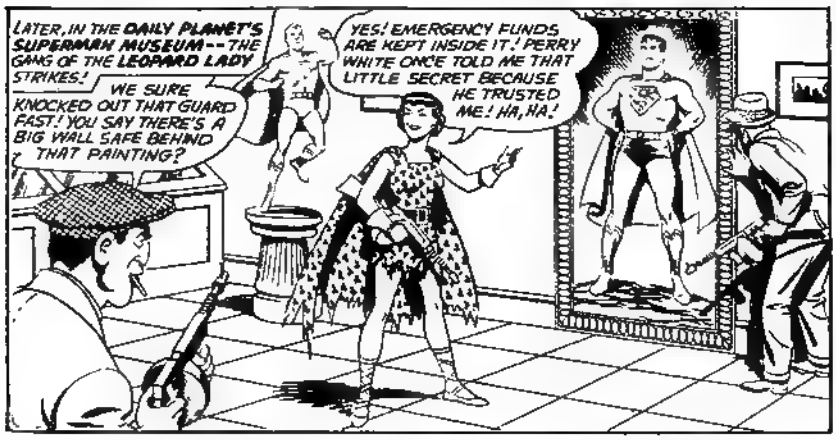
LOIS LANE, GUN-MOLL!

ALL I KNOW IS I'M DIFFERENT NOW, AND I LIKE IT! I'M WISED UP! THAT'S WHY I JOINED THESE GUYS! I'M OUT FOR BIG DOUGH NOW!
OH, LOIS--PLEASE--LET ME HELP YOU--TAKE YOU TO A DOCTOR!

MEANWHILE, RETURNING FROM OUTER SPACE, SUPERMAN NEARS THE DAILY PLANET...
I TELL YOU, BOSS, LOIS IS CHANGED! MAYBE THAT CRAZY MACHINE ACTUALLY WORKED!
MY SEARCH ON MARS WAS A FAILURE! I--WHAT'S THAT ABOUT LOIS? HMM! I'LL SWITCH TO MY CLARK KENT IDENTITY AND THEN ASK THEM WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

NO HEAD DOCTOR FOR ME! A LEOPARD DOESN'T CHANGE HER SPOTS! I'M STAYING JUST AS I AM!

BOYS, NOW MY OLD NEWSPAPER JOB IS GONNA PAY OFF! WE'RE GONNA ROB THE DAILY PLANET--A PLACE I KNOW LIKE THE PALM OF MY HAND!
THE PLANET? OH, LOIS--HOW CAN YOU BE SO TREACHEROUS?


LATER, IN THE DAILY PLANET'S SUPERMAN MUSEUM--THE GANG OF THE LEOPARD LADY STRIKES!
WE SURE KNOCKED OUT THAT GUARD FAST! YOU SAY THERE'S A BIG WALL SAFE BEHIND THAT PAINTING?
YES! EMERGENCY FUNDS ARE KEPT INSIDE IT! PERRY WHITE ONCE TOLD ME THAT LITTLE SECRET BECAUSE HE TRUSTED ME! HA, HA!

IRONICALLY, LOST IN THOUGHT BECAUSE OF WHAT JIMMY AND PERRY HAVE TOLD HIM ABOUT LOIS, CLARK WANDERS INTO THE ROOM...
GREAT SCOTT! LOIS--THE LEOPARD LADY I SAW HEADLINES ABOUT! HER FACE! IT LOOKS MURDEROUS!
HUH? IT'S THAT SNOOPY REPORTER--CLARK KENT! GRAB HIM!

UNABLE TO REVERT TO HIS SUPERMAN IDENTITY, NOW, CLARK PRETENDS TO PUT UP A LOSING BATTLE...
A SHOT MIGHT BRING THE POLICE! THIS'LL STOP HIM FAST--QUIET!
I'LL PRETEND TO BE KNOCKED OUT--BUT ONCE THEY'RE GONE, I'LL TRAIL THEIR GETAWAY CAR FROM THE SKY--AS SUPERMAN!

AND SO IT IS, THAT SOON AFTER, SUPERMAN MAKES A SURPRISE ENTRANCE!
SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVEN! MAYBE YOU CAN TALK SOME SENSE TO LOIS!
I INTEND TO DO JUST THAT, LUCY!

WAIT, SUPERMAN--I CAN EXPLAIN! I'VE ONLY BEEN PRETENDING TO HAVE TURNED EVIL! I HAVE THE PROOF IN THAT CABINET--LET ME SHOW YOU!
IS LOIS' STRANGE BEHAVIOUR ONLY PRETENCE? WHAT IS IT LOIS HAS SECRETED IN THAT CABINET?

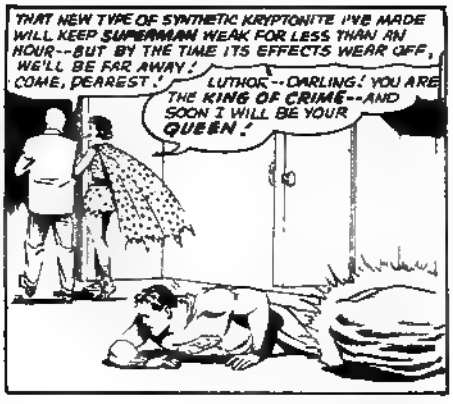
KRYPTONITE!
YES--STORED IN THAT LEAD-LINED CABINET, JUST IN CASE YOU EVER CAME HERE! HA! HA! YOU CHUMP--YOU REALLY FELL FOR MY LITTLE ACT! HA! HA!

HOW CAN YOU DO THIS TO ME--YOU WHO LOVE ME?
HA! MAYBE I'VE ALWAYS WANTED REVENGE BECAUSE YOU KEPT TURNING ME DOWN! BESIDES, I'VE CHANGED--I CAN'T LOVE A GOODY-GOODY HERO ANYMORE! I WANT A MAN WHO FITS MY NEW PERSONALITY.

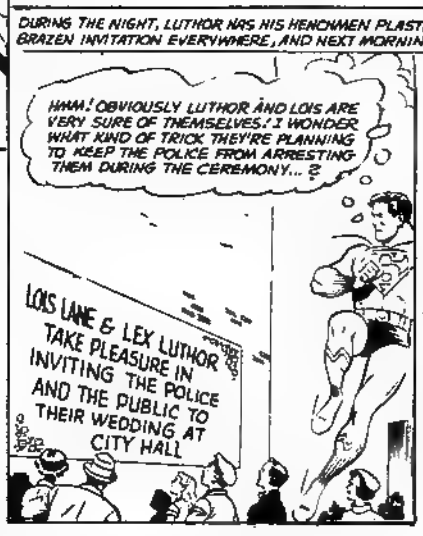
..AND I'VE GOT ONE!
LUTHOR!

YES--SUPERMAN'S OLD ENEMY--IS NOW THE NEW LOIS' NEW LOVE!
NO WONDER I FAILED TO FIND YOU ON MARS! AFTER YOU ESCAPED PRISON, YOU MUST HAVE LEFT FALSE CLUES TO MAKE ME BELIEVE YOU FLED THERE IN A SPACE CRAFT YOU INVENTED!
TRUE--AND IT WAS WHILE YOU WERE AWAY THAT LOIS AND I BECAME PARTNERS-IN-CRIME--AND SOON WE'RE GOING TO BE MARRIED!

AT SUPERMAN'S GROAN OF DISMAY, LUTHOR CANNOT RESIST HIS MOMENT OF TRIUMPH!
MARRIED! OH, NO-OOOO...
YES, SUPERMAN! LOIS IS MINE NOW! I'VE TAKEN HER AWAY FROM YOU! HA! HA!


THAT NEW TYPE OF SYNTHETIC KRYPTONITE I'VE MADE WILL KEEP SUPERMAN WEAK FOR LESS THAN AN HOUR--BUT BY THE TIME ITS EFFECTS WEAR OFF, WE'LL BE FAR AWAY! COME, DEAREST!
LUTHOR--DARLING! YOU ARE THE KING OF CRIME--AND SOON I WILL BE YOUR QUEEN!

LATER, AFTER A SADDENED SUPERMAN AND LUCY INFORM THE POLICE OF THE BITTER TRUTH...
SUPERMAN, THIS IS ONE NEWSPAPER STORY I WISH I NEVER HAD TO PRINT!
SOB SOB
DAILY PLANET
LEOPARD LADY REVEALED AS LOIS LANE! ENGAGED TO LUTHOR


DURING THE NIGHT, LUTHOR HAS HIS HENCHMEN PLASTER A BRAZEN INVITATION EVERYWHERE, AND NEXT MORNING.
HMM! OBVIOUSLY LUTHOR AND LOIS ARE VERY SURE OF THEMSELVES! I WONDER WHAT KIND OF TRICK THEY'RE PLANNING TO KEEP THE POLICE FROM ARRESTING THEM DURING THE CEREMONY...?
LOIS LANE & LEX LUTHOR TAKE PLEASURE IN INVITING THE POLICE AND THE PUBLIC TO THEIR WEDDING AT CITY HALL

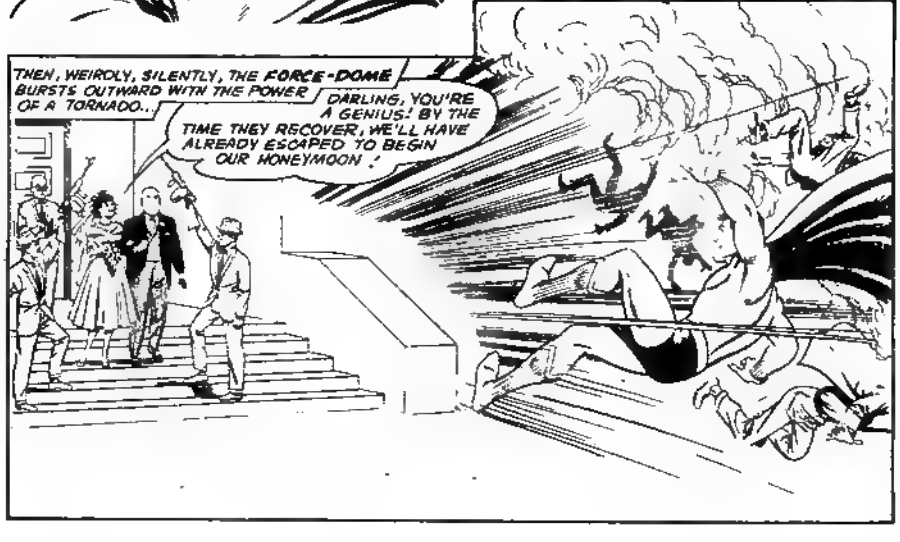
SWIFTLY, SUPERMAN RACES TO THE WEDDING SITE WHERE REPORTERS AND POLICE HAVE CONVERGED..
I SEE THAT LUTHOR AND LOIS ARE FORCING A JUDGE TO PERFORM THE CEREMONY! BUT WHY HAVEN'T YOU ARRESTED LUTHOR BY NOW?
WE CAN'T GET TO HIM! TRY IT YOURSELF AND YOU'LL SEE WHAT I MEAN!

IMPATIENTLY, SUPERMAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF FORWARD, BUT...
SURPRISE! THE POLICE CAN'T GET THROUGH OUR FORCE-DOME--AND NEITHER CAN YOU--BECAUSE IT'S FORTIFIED WITH KRYPTONITE!
OKAY, JUDGE--YOU CAN START THE WEDDING, NOW THAT THE "BEST MAN" HAS ARRIVED! HA! HA!

AND THEN, NUMBLY, SUPERMAN HEARS THE CEREMONIAL WORDS--WORDS THAT STRIKE HIM LIKE HAMMER-BLOWS!
LOIS LANE--DO YOU TAKE THIS MAN FOR YOUR HUSBAND?
I SURE DO!

IF ANYONE HERE CAN VOICE OBJECTIONS AS TO WHY THIS MAN AND WOMAN SHALL BE WED, LET HIM SPEAK NOW OR FOREVER HOLD HIS PEACE...
I OBJECT! I DO! OH, IF ONLY I COULD BATTER THROUGH!

ABRUPTLY, SUPERMAN STOPS--AS IF HE IS RESIGNED TO THE INEVITABLE...
...I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU MAN AND WIFE!
HEAR THAT, SUPERMAN? THAT MAKES IT OFFICIAL! YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE TO MARRY ME, BUT YOU MUFFED IT!


THEN, WEIRDLY, SILENTLY, THE FORCE-DOME BURSTS OUTWARD WITH THE POWER OF A TORNADO..
DARLING, YOU'RE A GENIUS! BY THE TIME THEY RECOVER, WE'LL HAVE ALREADY ESCAPED TO BEGIN OUR HONEYMOON!

LATER --; LANA LANG, YOU'VE LOVED SUPERMAN EVER SINCE HE WAS SUPERBOY! NOW THAT LOIS IS MARRIED, MAYBE HE'LL GIVE YOU A TUMBLE...
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED SUPERMAN TO LOVE ME-- BUT NOT BECAUSE HE'S UNHAPPY! ;SOB! I'VE NEVER WANTED IT TO BE LIKE THIS! ;SOB!
MTV

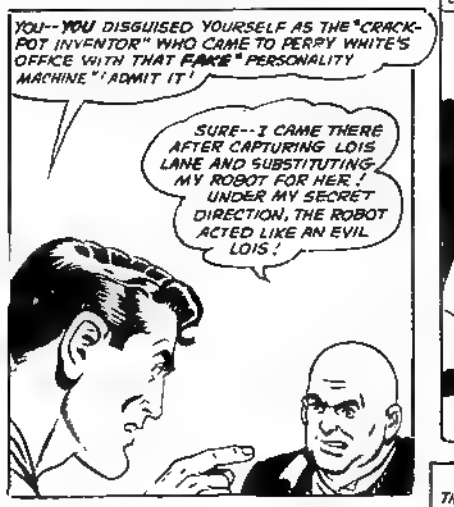
SOMETIME LATER, IN ANOTHER HIDEOUT...
DID YOU SEE THAT LOOK ON SUPERMAN'S FACE WHEN THE JUDGE PRONOUNCED US MAN AND WIFE? HA, HA!
HA! LIKE YOU ALWAYS SAY, BOSS, REVENGE IS SWEET!

THIS TIME IT'S TURNED SOUR!
SUPERMAN!??

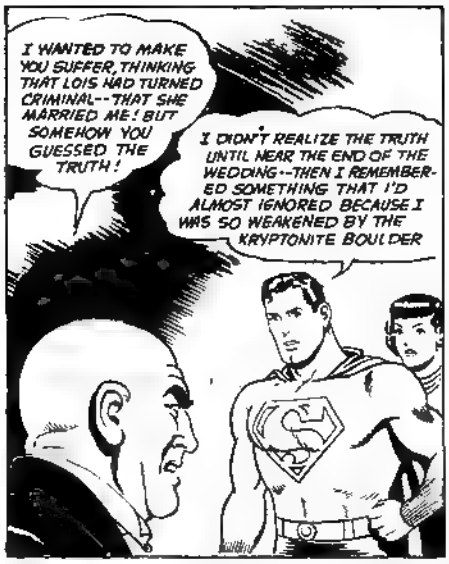
SWIFTLY, SUPERMAN BINDS THE TRIO, AND THEN
NO--THERE IS EVIL IN YOU-- EVIL THAT MUST BE DESTROYED --BURNED OUT..
SUPERMAN-- WAIT..

HE'S USING THE HEAT OF HIS X-RAY VISION ON HER! SHE--SHE--OOOH--IT'S TERRIBLE!
;ULP! OHH, I CAN'T LOOK!

IS--IS IT ALL OVER?
YES, LOIS--YOU CAN COME IN NOW! THAT'S RIGHT, LUTHOR--I FREED THE REAL LOIS WHERE YOU HAD HER IMPRISONED IN THE BASEMENT...THEN I CAME UP HERE TO DESTROY WHAT WAS ONCE YOUR MOST EVIL INVENTION--A LOIS ROBOT!


YOU--YOU DISGUISED YOURSELF AS THE "CRACK-POT INVENTOR" WHO CAME TO PERRY WHITE'S OFFICE WITH THAT FAKE PERSONALITY MACHINE"! ADMIT IT!
SURE--I CAME THERE AFTER CAPTURING LOIS LANE AND SUBSTITUTING MY ROBOT FOR HER! UNDER MY SECRET DIRECTION, THE ROBOT ACTED LIKE AN EVIL LOIS!

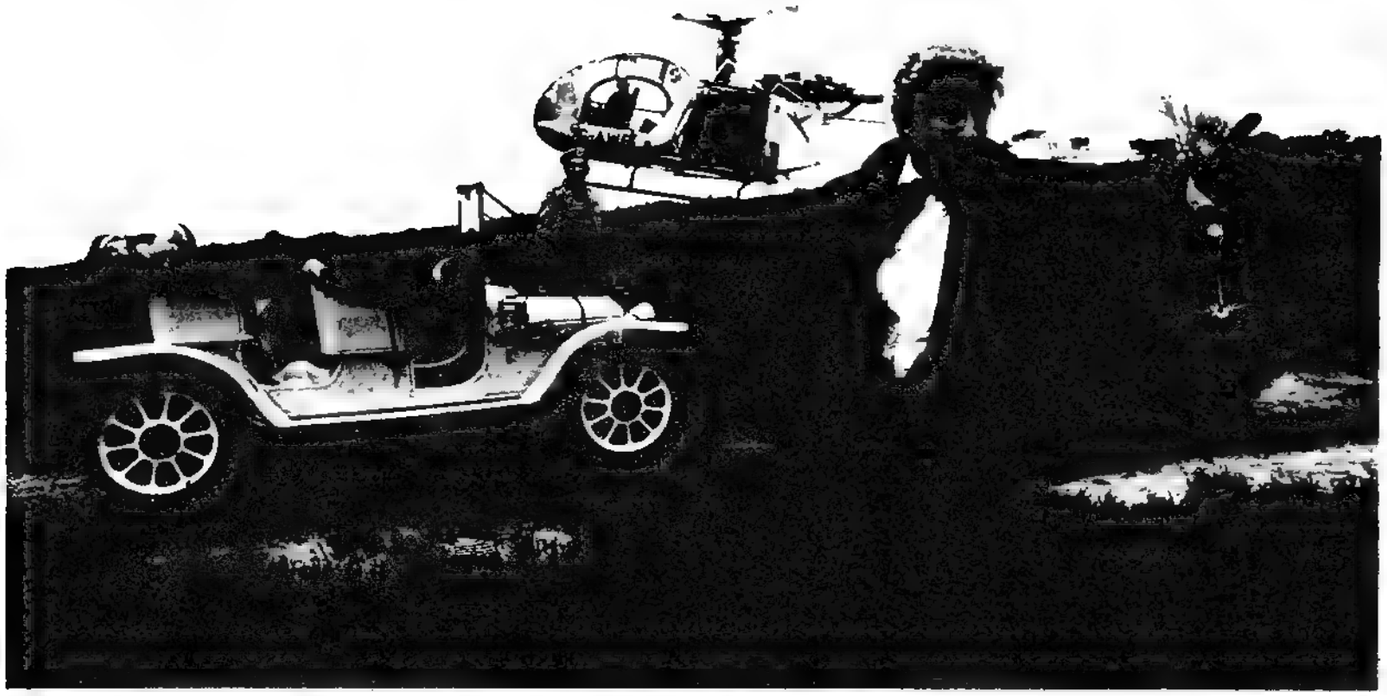
YOUR LOIS-ROBOT DELIBERATELY LEFT THE STOLEN NECKLACE FOR LUCY TO FIND--SO LUCY COULD BE TAKEN TO THE LEOPARD LADY'S LAIR--AND THERE SEE HOW EVIL HER "SISTER" HAD BECOME...
SURE--I KNEW YOU'D EVENTUALLY FIND THE LAIR--AND WE NEEDED LUCY AROUND TO CONVINCE YOU LATER THAT LOIS WAS A CHANGED GIRL!


I WANTED TO MAKE YOU SUFFER, THINKING THAT LOIS HAD TURNED CRIMINAL--THAT SHE MARRIED ME! BUT SOMEHOW YOU GUESSED THE TRUTH!
I DIDN'T REALIZE THE TRUTH UNTIL NEAR THE END OF THE WEDDING--THEN I REMEMBERED SOMETHING THAT I'D ALMOST IGNORED BECAUSE I WAS SO WEAKENED BY THE KRYPTONITE BOULDER

"YOU AND 'LOIS' WERE SO BUSY LAUGHING AT ME, THAT YOU DIDN'T NOTICE YOUR LIGHTER WASN'T NEAR THE CIGARETTE--BUT NEAR HER CHEEK--SHE DIDN'T EVEN WINCE FROM THE HEAT OF THE FLAME .."

THAT MEANT "LOIS" WASN'T HUMAN, BUT A ROBOT! KNOWING THAT, I USED MY SUPER-HEARING TO PICK UP THE FREQUENCY SIGNAL IN THE ROBOT'S ELECTRONIC BRAIN--AND THE SIGNAL LED ME HERE!
IMAGINE--YOUR REVENGE--RUINED BY A CIGARETTE!

LATER, ONCE AGAIN THINGS ARE BACK TO NORMAL AT THE DAILY PLANET...
SUPERMAN--NOW THAT I KNOW YOU REALLY CARE, HOW ABOUT HOLDING HANDS IN A MOVIE WITH ME TONIGHT?
SORRY, BUT FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO GET YOUR "MARRIAGE" ANNULLED! I NEVER DATE MARRIED WOMEN!
THE END



The third man

Did you realise that Jon Pertwee is the third actor to play Dr Who on television? The original doctor, back in 1963, was William Hartnell (right). Then came Patrick Troughton (left).

Each has given the doctor slightly different characteristics But the popularity of Dr Who continues unchanged it seems

There's a real joker in that police box

WHAT do you do when you receive official looking documents calling you up for the Royal Navy — and then find that they are a practical joke played on you by your brother?

Well, if you're Jon Pertwee, the latest Dr Who, you go round to your brother's house while he is out and you fill his bath with jelly made from the contents of 25 packets!

Yes, Jon did exactly that — though his brother Michael turned the joke to advantage by throwing a jelly party, issuing his friends with spoons and inviting them to eat it all!

The two Pertwees have always been great practical jokers. Jon claims to have gone through several schools as a boy due to his jokes. And he lost an early job as an actor in a repertory company for playing a trick on the leading man while on stage. He was supposed to shake him by the hand; Jon pressed an egg into his hand!

Jon's parents were both on the stage and he started entertaining at 10 when he was given a ukelele for his birthday. But he made his name as a voice on radio in comedy shows like *The Navy Lark* (He was, in fact a naval officer in the war). He has been called a man of 50 voices.

Now he is the third actor to fly Dr Who's police box. He's made the doctor more of a dandy, with ruffled shirts and fancy jackets instead of the frock coats and baggy trousers of the past. But, like the others he still has to face the monsters and aliens in the past, present and future.

SUPERMAN'S PAL JIMMY OLSEN

WELL, IT FINALLY HAPPENS! IT'S THE END OF A BEAUTIFUL FRIENDSHIP AS **SUPERMAN** DISCARDS HIS OLD SIDE-KICK, JIMMY OLSEN, AND CHOOSES A NEW PAL TO SHARE HIS ADVENTURES! NATURALLY, JIMMY BLOWS HIS TOP! BUT WHO WOULD DREAM THAT JIMMY WOULD GO SO FAR AS TO DOUBLE-CROSS THE **MAN OF STEEL** AND PLOT—

The REVENGE of JIMMY OLSEN!

WHAT A TWIST! A HERO ONE DAY, AND A **GOAT** THE NEXT! MY FANS COULDN'T WAIT TO SWITCH THEIR LOYALTY! IT'S ALL **SUPERMAN'S** FAULT, FOR FIRING ME AND GETTING A NEW PAL!

MARK, AS MY PAL, YOU'RE FAR MORE EFFICIENT THAN JIMMY **EVER** WAS!

MARK QUENTIN FAN CLUB

JIMMY OL FAN CL

OUT-DATED OLSEN TROPHIES TO BE JUNKED

ONE DAY, WHILE JIMMY OLSEN AND HIS FAN CLUB GO BOATING, AS GUESTS OF A NEW MEMBER...

MARK, IT'S SWELL OF YOU TO LET THE CLUB GO FISHING IN YOUR DAD'S BOAT!

I KNEW THEY'D ENJOY IT, JIMMY! THE GLASS BOTTOM MAKES IT EASY TO SPOT THE REAL BIG ONES!

SUDDENLY!

YE GODS! LOOK! A MACHINE GUN ON THE BOTTOM! I'LL BET IT WAS DROPPED HERE BY SOME CRIMINAL AFTER HE COMMITTED A CRIME!

I'LL GET IT, JIMMY!

MARK, WAIT! THE BOTTOM'S AT LEAST FIFTY FEET DEEP! YOU'LL NEVER MAKE IT!

GULP! HE'S NOT LISTENING! I'D BETTER SIGNAL FOR **SUPERMAN**!

AS **SUPERMAN** RESPONDS TO JIMMY'S SIGNAL...

YOU WASTED MY TIME BY CALLING ME, JIMMY! MARK, HERE, HANDLED THE SITUATION NICELY BY HIMSELF! AND MY SUPER-MEMORY IDENTIFIES THIS WEAPON AS ONE USED IN A GANGLAND MURDER!

ER, SORRY, **SUPERMAN**!

DID HE HAVE TO EMBARRASS ME IN FRONT OF MY FANS?

GOSH, HE LIKES ME! DO YOU THINK HE'LL LET ME WORK WITH HIM SOME DAY, JIMMY?

HA, HA! IT TAKES **YEARS** OF EXPERIENCE BEFORE YOU CAN GO ON A MISSION WITH **SUPERMAN**!

I MAKE ONE TINY GOOF AND THIS AMATEUR IS READY TO REPLACE ME!

NEXT DAY, AS THE CLUB AWAITS A VISIT BY **SUPERMAN**...

BOY, IT'S HOT IN HERE! I WISH **SUPERMAN** WOULD SHOW UP FOR HIS LECTURE ON SPACE SHIPS!

LOOK, KIDS! SOMEONE PREPARED A PITCHER OF LEMONADE! LET'S HAVE SOME WHILE WE WAIT!

BUT AFTER JIMMY POURS A DRINK...

MARK, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? HAVE YOU FLIPPED?

DON'T TOUCH THAT LEMONADE! I THINK IT'S DRUGGED!

SECONDS LATER, WHEN **SUPERMAN** ARRIVES...

MARK WAS RIGHT! MY MICROSCOPIC VISION DETECTS THE CRYSTALS OF A SLEEPING DRUG! SOME CROOK MAY HAVE PLANNED TO DOPE YOU AND STEAL YOUR TROPHY COLLECTION! HOW DID YOU SPOT IT, MARK?

I KNEW SOMETHING WAS WRONG WHEN I SAW LEMON SEEDS FLOATING ON THE SURFACE! NORMALLY, SEEDS SINK TO THE BOTTOM!

YOU SHOULD BE MORE ALERT, JIMMY! THANKS TO MARK, YOUR FANS ESCAPED BEING DRUGGED! COME ON, MARK! I'LL LET YOU ASSIST ME IN MY LECTURE!

GULP! I WAS SUPPOSED TO HELP HIM ON STAGE! I GUESS THIS IS **SUPERMAN'S** WAY OF SCOLDING ME FOR GOOFING! I'D BETTER GET ON THE BALL!

BUT THE FOLLOWING DAY, AS JIMMY'S FAN CLUB VISITS THE AQUARIUM...

THERE YOU ARE, BOYS! A SPECIALLY TRAINED GROUP OF ELECTRIC EELS, WHICH **SUPERMAN** BROUGHT HERE FROM ATLANTIS. THE DIVER IS TEACHING THEM HOW TO SPELL OUT THE LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET!

SUDDENLY...

GASP! AN OCTOPUS IT GRABBED THE DIVER! I'D BETTER SIGNAL FOR **SUPERMAN**!

MARK! **SUPERMAN** DOESN'T ANSWER

I KNOW WHAT'S WRONG! QUICK, JIMMY, GIVE ME YOUR WATCH!

ZEEEE

SECONDS LATER, OUTSIDE THE AQUARIUM...

SUPERMAN! THANK HEAVENS YOU ANSWERED MY SUMMONS! QUICK.. THE DIVER IN THE MAIN TANK ...HE'S FIGHTING OFF AN OCTOPUS!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, MARK!

BUT HOW DID MARK GET THE SIGNAL WATCH TO WORK, WHEN I COULDN'T?

AFTER SUPERMAN SAVES THE DIVER, MARK EXPLAINS...

I REALIZED THAT THE ELECTRICITY FROM THOSE EELS WAS INTERFERING WITH THE ELECTRONIC CIRCUITS OF JIMMY'S WATCH. SO I SIGNALLED FROM OUTSIDE, WHERE THERE WAS NO INTERFERENCE!

SMART THINKING, MARK. KEEP THE WATCH, SON. YOU'LL PUT IT TO BETTER USE THAN JIMMY!

BUT, SUPERMAN! YOU CAN'T TAKE THAT WATCH AWAY! CHOKE! NOT AFTER ALL WE'VE BEEN THROUGH TOGETHER! I'M YOUR PAL!

FRANKLY, JIMMY, YOU'VE BEEN SLIPPING LATELY! I THINK YOU NEED A REST! I PLAN TO UNDERTAKE A DIFFICULT MISSION SOON! I'LL NEED A PAL WHO'S REALLY ON THE BEAM TO WORK WITH ME!

AQUA

MARK, I'LL LET YOU TRY OUT FOR JIMMY'S JOB! COME ON, I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY FORTRESS AND BRIEF YOU ON YOUR DUTIES AS MY NEW PAL!

ISN'T THAT MARK QUENTIN TERRIFIC?

OH, NO! HOW COULD SUPERMAN DO THIS TO ME? IT'S LIKE SOME HORRIBLE DREAM!

DEJECTED, JIMMY REPORTS TO HIS JOB AT THE DAILY PLANET...

JIMMY, WOULD YOU PLEASE TYPE UP THIS BULLETIN?...OH...ER..FORGET IT, KID! ER...I'LL HAVE LOIS TAKE CARE OF IT!

ANYTHING YOU SAY, PERRY!

WONDER WHAT'S UP? WHY SHOULD PERRY SUDDENLY HAND THAT ASSIGNMENT TO LOIS?

MOMENTS LATER, AT LOIS' DESK...

JIMMY! I JUST HEARD THE NEWS! I CAN'T TELL YOU HOW SORRY I AM...

IT... IT'S OKAY, LOIS!

GULP! NOW I KNOW WHY PERRY DIDN'T GIVE ME THE STORY! HE DIDN'T WANT TO HURT ME!

SUPERMAN GETS NEW PAL! OLSEN OUT! QUENTIN IN! BY LOIS LANE

SUDDENLY, AS JIMMY GLANCES THROUGH THE WINDOW...

PERRY! DID I JUST SEE MARK QUENTIN TAKE OFF IN THE HELICOPTER WITH CLARK KENT?

CORRECT, JIMMY. WE'RE GIVING THE KID A TRYOUT AS A CUB REPORTER. SINCE HE'S SUPERMAN'S FRIEND, HE'LL BE IN ON ALL THE BIG SCOOPS!

MARK QUENTIN ...BAH! FIRST HE STEALS MY FRIENDSHIP WITH SUPERMAN, THEN HE TAKES AWAY MY FANS! AND NOW YOU'RE TRAINING HIM TO TAKE MY PLACE ON THE PLANET! OKAY, YOU CAN HAVE HIM! I QUIT!

JIMMY, WAIT!

GLOOMILY, JIMMY WANDERS THE STREETS OF METROPOLIS...

QUITTING THE PLANET WAS A STUPID THING TO DO. NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND A NEW JOB... I WISH I COULD GET MY MIND OFF THOSE HEADLINES!

DAILY PLANET MARK QUENTIN CHOSEN AS SUPERMAN'S NEW PAL

JUST THEN...

OH, OLSEN, I JUST READ ABOUT SUPERMAN FIRING YOU! I'VE GOT A PROPOSITION FOR YOU. STEP IN MY CAR AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT IT!

HMM! A SHADY LOOKING CHARACTER! BUT I MIGHT AS WELL HEAR HIS OFFER. WHAT CAN I LOSE?

AS THE CAR DRIVES ACROSS METROPOLIS...

PSSST! THAT'S THE 'CINCINNATI KID'. STICK WITH HIM, OLSEN, AND HE'LL DO BIG THINGS FOR YOU!

ULP! THE 'CINCINNATI KID'! IT'S SAID HE'S THE BIG WHEEL IN THE CRIME SYNDICATE! NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A PICTURE OF HIM. I WONDER WHAT HIS PROPOSITION IS?

SOON, IN A SWANK PENTHOUSE...

OLSEN, THIS PLUSH APARTMENT IS FURNISHED LIKE A ROYAL SUITE... TV HI-FI THE WORKS! IT'S ALL YOURS, PLUS $500 A WEEK, IF YOU PLAY ALONG WITH ME!

IT'S A DEAL, "KID"! I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU ASK, AS LONG AS IT ISN'T CROOKED!

RELAX, OLSEN! I'M STARTING A NEWSPAPER FOR MY PALS, AND I WANT YOU TO RUN IT! AFTER ALL, YOU WROTE PLENTY OF CRIME STORIES FOR THE PLANET!

HM. YOU'RE RIGHT! I'LL TAKE THE JOB! AND F SUPERMAN DOESN'T LIKE IT, THAT'S HIS TOUGH LUCK! AFTER ALL, I'VE GOT TO LOOK OUT FOR NUMBER ONE!

THE UNDERWORLD GRAPEVINE

SOON, AS JIMMY BEGINS HIS NEW JOB.

OLSEN, I WANT YOU TO RUN A FEATURE ABOUT "SAM THE CLAM", AN UNDERWORLD KILLER WHO WENT TO PRISON RATHER THAN SQUEAL ON HIS PALS!

A GREAT IDEA, "KID"! I'LL WRITE A STORY PLAYING HIM UP AS A REAL HERO!

NEXT DAY, JIMMY GETS ANOTHER ASSIGNMENT FROM THE SYNDICATE

FOR YOUR NEXT EDITION, OLSEN, RUN THIS REWARD OFFER OR WILL YOUR CONSCIENCE BOTHER YOU FOR DOUBLE-CROSSING SUPERMAN?

AFTER THE WAY HE DOUBLE-CROSSED ME? HA! LET HIS NEW PAL TRY AND PROTECT HIS SECRET IDENTITY! I'LL RUN THIS REWARD OFFER ON THE FRONT PAGE!

$100,000 - REWARD! - FOR INFORMATION LEADING TO SUPERMAN'S IDENTITY!

NEXT AFTERNOON JIMMY'S STORY GETS RESULTS!

ABOUT THIS REWARD OFFERED BY THE SYNDICATE! I'M HERE TO COLLECT IT! I'VE DISCOVERED THAT **SUPERMAN** IS REALLY **REX MASON**, THE FAMOUS ACTOR!

IF IT ISN'T "STOOL PIGEON" SNEED! TALK IS CHEAP, SNEED. HAVE YOU ANY PROOF?

THE UNDERWORLD GRAPEVINE $100,000 THE REWARD

I SURE HAVE! SINCE **SUPERMAN** IS OFTEN SEEN NEAR THE **DAILY PLANET**, I USED THIS INFRA-RED CAMERA, WHICH WORKS IN THE DARK, TO PHOTOGRAPH ANYONE LEAVING THE **PLANET** BUILDING AT NIGHT. THIS SHOT OF MASON SHOWS HE'S REALLY **SUPERMAN**!

WOW! SNEED, YOU HIT THE JACKPOT!

HOW ABOUT THAT, OLSEN? JUST THINK, **YOU** COULD HAVE PICKED UP THE REWARD, YOURSELF, IF YOU KNEW **SUPERMAN'S** IDENTITY!

ONE HUNDRED GRAND, EH? DON'T GIVE IT TO SNEED YET... BECAUSE I **DO** KNOW HIS IDENTITY... AND IT **ISN'T** REX MASON!

IF ANYONE'S GOING TO COLLECT THAT REWARD, IT'LL BE **ME**. I WAS HIS BEST PAL FOR YEARS. I CAN SHOW YOU WHO HE **REALLY** IS... ALL I NEED IS SOME CARDBOARD, LUMBER AND A BOX OF PAINTS!

OKAY, OLSEN, YOU'VE GOT A DEAL! WRITE DOWN WHAT YOU NEED AND THE BOYS WILL GET IT FOR YOU!

FOR HOURS JIMMY WORKS IN AN ISOLATED ROOM. THEN...

BAH! WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN DOING IN THERE, OLSEN? CUTTING PAPER DOLLS? IF THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A JOKE....

RELAX, BOYS. YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET THE SURPRISE OF YOUR LIVES!

PUT THESE GLASSES ON THAT **SUPERMAN** PICTURE, COVER IT WITH THE CUTOUT OF THESE CLOTHES... AND PRESTO... HE'S **CLARK KENT**, THE REPORTER! IRONICALLY ENOUGH, I HAPPENED TO SEE **SUPERMAN** SWITCH IDENTITIES THE VERY LAST DAY I WORKED AT THE **PLANET**!

GREAT! OLSEN, IF THIS IS ON THE LEVEL, THAT REWARD IS YOURS!

OLSEN, WE'VE GOT A SECRET CACHE OF **KRYPTONITE** THAT WE'VE BEEN SAVING. WE'LL USE IT ON CLARK KENT. IF IT WORKS, THE REWARD IS YOURS. IF NOT, WE'LL TRY IT ON REX MASON. YOU WAIT HERE!

DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU GET BACK. I CAN'T WAIT TO START COUNTING THE DOUGH!

BUT SOON AFTERWARD, IN AN ISOLATED ALLEY

BAD NEWS **SUPERMAN**! THE WORST HAPPENED! OLSEN WAS READY TO BETRAY YOU. HE CLAIMS HE CAN PROVE YOU'RE REALLY CLARK KENT. HE'S WAITING FOR THE REWARD MONEY AT OUR OFFICE NOW!

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE IT, 'CHOKE'! COME ON, I'VE GOT TO SEE THIS FOR MYSELF!

BUT WHEN **SUPERMAN** ARRIVES AT JIMMY'S OFFICE...

OLSEN'S GONE!

OH, OH! I HEAR A SUPER-SONIC SIGNAL FROM MARK QUENTIN'S WATCH! HM! THERE SEEMS TO BE AN EMERGENCY OUTSIDE THE **PLANET** OFFICE. YOU'D BETTER MEET ME THERE!

ZEEE-ZEEE

AS **SUPERMAN** RESPONDS TO THE ALARM...

MARK! WHY DID YOU SIGNAL ME? WHAT'S JIMMY DOING HERE?

I BEGGED MARK TO CALL YOU, **SUPERMAN**! IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT. A GANG IS PLOTTING TO KILL YOU!

DAILY PLANET

SWIFTLY, JIMMY EXPLAINS...

WHEN I SAW THE INFRA-RED PHOTO, WHICH REVEALED YOUR REX MASON IDENTITY, I ATTEMPTED TO FOOL THE SYNDICATE BY PROVING YOU WERE SOMEONE ELSE! NATURALLY, I PICKED THE **LEAST LIKELY** PERSON FOR YOUR OTHER IDENTITY... **CLARK KENT!**

ER... FAST THINKING, JIMMY!

JIMMY DIDN'T WANT TO DOUBLE-CROSS ME... BUT HE NEARLY DID!

SUDDENLY... **SUPERMAN**! WATCH OUT! IT'S THE GANG WHO DISCOVERED YOUR REX MASON IDENTITY! I **PRETENDED** ALL ALONG TO COOPERATE WITH THEM, AND THAT I WAS SORE AT YOU FOR REPLACING ME. I PLAYED ALONG WITH THEM, HOPING I COULD GET THE GOODS ON "CINCINNATI KID" FOR YOU... SO THAT YOU WOULD TAKE ME BACK AS YOUR PAL!

RELAX JIMMY! I'M NOT REX MASON, AND THEY'RE **NOT** THE SYNDICATE GANG! THEY'RE **AGENTS** OF THE **F.B.I.**! PERHAPS I'D BETTER EXPLAIN!

"WEEKS AGO, I WAS SUMMONED BY THE F.B.I."

SUPERMAN, WE'RE WORRIED. WHAT IF SOME DAY OLSEN BECAME CARELESS AND UNRELIABLE AS YOUR PAL, AND YOU HAD TO REPLACE HIM--HOW WOULD OLSEN REACT? WOULD HE BE LOYAL, OR WOULD HE BETRAY YOUR SECRETS OUT OF ANGER?

I SEE. YOU WANT TO GIVE JIMMY A SUPER-SECURITY CHECK! I'LL COOPERATE, BUT I'D BET MY LIFE HE'D STAY LOYAL!

I DELIBERATELY PLANNED TO MAKE YOU ANGRY AT ME, BY PICKING A NEW PAL. I HAD MARK, HERE, JOIN YOUR CLUB! ACTUALLY, HE'S **AQUALAD** IN DISGUISE!

AQUALAD!... **AQUAMAN'S** PARTNER! WHY DIDN'T I GUESS IT BEFORE?

LATER, IN THE CLUBHOUSE, AS JIMMY'S FANS LOOK ON...

AND SO, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT JIMMY OLSEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN, AND WILL **ALWAYS** BE, MY BEST PAL!

'RAY FOR JIMMY! FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD FELLOW...

IT ALL FITS TOGETHER NOW. EACH OF YOUR FEATS WAS SOMEHOW CONNECTED WITH WATER! THAT DEEP DIVE... THAT LEMONADE... AND THE OCTOPUS THAT GRABBED THE DIVER... I'LL BET IT WAS **TOPO**, YOUR TRAINED PET!

CORRECT, JIMMY. IT WAS **SUPERMAN** WHO PLANTED THAT MACHINE GUN... AND THE LEMONADE ACTUALLY, IT WASN'T DRUGGED AT ALL. IT WAS ALL A PLAN TO TEST YOUR LOYALTY TO **SUPERMAN**... AND YOU PASSED WITH FLYING COLOURS!

HA, HA! I SURE HAD YOU! F.B.I. AGENTS FOOLED BY CLAIMING **SUPERMAN'S** SECRET IDENTITY WAS CLARK KENT!

ARE YOU KIDDING? WE KNEW **SUPERMAN** WOULD **NEVER** PICK A NAMBY-PAMBY CHARACTER LIKE KENT FOR HIS OTHER SELF! KENT'S THE **LAST MAN IN THE WORLD** WHO COULD BE **SUPERMAN**!

THEY'D BE AMAZED TO KNOW HOW RIGHT JIMMY'S GUESS WAS!

SUPERMAN ... AT BAY

SUPERMAN turned like a tiger enraged. There was kryptonite somewhere, every cell in his body told him that. He must find the source of that radiation, deadly to his superpowers. That fantastic element, born of the cosmic explosion which had destroyed his native planet Krypton, had existed only there. The problem was that beyond the kryptonite barrier was the entrance, still closed, of his Fortress of Solitude, in the icy Arctic wastes.

Not that Superman felt the cold But this was his home and he must get inside. The tingling in his body increased as he fought his way across the ice-packed plateau and his senses were almost leaving him before he reached the great door

His strength was almost gone and he could scarcely mutter into the grille the formula that would open it. His indomitable spirit won and soon the door closed behind him and the kryptonite radiations were cut off.

His bio-physiological probe was his objective. It was the only one in existence and he needed it in his fight against crime in the city of Metropolis, of which he was the appointed guardian. As he worked at the task of miniaturising the instrument to carrying size, he brooded over which of his foes could have planted the deadly kryptonite. Brainiac, Luthor, the Toyman, the Prankster? Could it be one of these?

CRIME WAVE

It was fruitless to speculate and he put the small instrument under his arm Outside again the deadly tingling hit him again and it took all his superpowers to take off. Only when he was soaring in the crisp, icy air and leaving the peak did his full titanic strength return to him.

The city of Metropolis was in uproar. A new wave of crime was sweeping the city and Superman felt he knew the reason for the kryptonite at his sanctuary entrance Thinking him inside, the enemy had planned to imprison him there. While the cat's away the mice will play.

He went at once to a city apartment and a few moments later he left in his second identity as Clark Kent, reporter, and strolled along to the *Daily Planet* offices.

City Editor, Perry White, greeted him sourly. "Jimmy and Lois are out and about, Clark. As you should be. Get out and see what is breaking in the city. The mayor and council are at their wits' end Every crook is in action from small time thieves up to the biggest mobsters and the cops are being overwhelmed.

At police HQ, Clark met Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen The place was seeth-

ing. The three compared notes and then separated, each to a different sector. Lois looked after Clark, thinking of the haunting reminders he gave her of the great Superman, though this vague newsman was as far apart from Superman as the poles.

But it was as Superman, with the miniaturised probe under his arm, that Clark emerged again and flew at once up to the zenith. Looking down over the crowded streets of Metropolis, the guardian of the city grieved that the powers of evil were loose there. For an instant he felt a helplessness quite foreign to his nature. That momentary sensation, blanketing his super-powers, proved his undoing.

INTO SPACE

At the same instant as the probe bleeped, denoting the presence of life in his vicinity, he felt an invisible cloud of force surround him and draw him up into the blackness of space, to where a tiny green star glowed. At last he knew the creature who was causing the turmoil that was engulfing Metropolis.

Brainiac, that weird creature half man and half machine, with a super-computer brain, met him as he was thrust, still inside the force field, into the great flying saucer that was the home and workshop of that evil genius.

"You escaped my kryptonite then, Superman," Brainiac snarled, confronting his foe. "No matter, you are now my prisoner. Though I cannot kill you, as I well know, I will imprison you in the globe of force for ever. Never shall you escape from that shell, Superman, while I and my minions plunder your city and then earth. Ended is all the nonsense of you as the guardian of the city. There is enough humanity in me to make me long to dominate the entire human race and bend all men to my sovereign will."

Only his brain working, Superman was held rigid. He could not move a limb and even his eye muscles would not move. Brainiac went out of his cone of sight and Superman exerted his super-vision. But even this was blocked by the strange force-field that Brainiac had woven around him.

It looked hopeless. Even if he broke down the barrier it would be too late. Brainiac and his henchmen would by then have plundered his city to the bone. Just one hope was left to him. Brainiac must sleep some time, but, Superman could go without sleep for many days and nights. He knew of old that the creature was alone in his vessel. Robots were his assistants and no humans were there. He nerved himself to wait. When Brainiac slept his vigilance might be overcome.

With a cruel laugh, Brainiac wheeled an instrument in front of his prisoner. "This is your jailer, Superman," he mocked. "While this is operating you are held in a vice of steel. I am leaving it under full power and now I go down to your city to supervise the plunder. When I return I shall display to you the treasures stripped from Metropolis."

So his hope was useless, brooded Superman. So powerful was his rage that instinctively he put forth every ounce of his great super-powers in one vast surge and they *multiplied!* His heat-vision penetrated the ionised force-field and beat upon the metal of the strange machine. A curl of smoke went up from melting plastic and he focussed his heat-vision on the switches.

How many hours passed he did not know or care and even his super-powers were strained when at last he was rewarded. His eye-muscles moved! Then his muscles moved all over his body, one by one as the weird force was weakened. Stiffly he walked towards the machine and reduced it to molten metal.

He stared round him at the array of marvellous engines Brainiac had devised, second only to the wonders he himself had developed in his Fortress of Solitude. One by one he de-activated them, their vital parts fused into shapeless lumps. Then he returned and stood motionless on the spot where the invisible force globe had been before he neutralised it.

SMALL SMILE

He allowed himself a small smile. Brainiac and his hordes would return, glorying in their evil deeds, and they would display to him in triumph the wealth they had torn from his city. They would taunt him in his helplessness.

He could picture the frustrated rage on the strange face of his enemy Brainiac when Superman, thought to be as helpless as a granite statue, moved with all his fantastic power to the revenge. The treasure would be restored to Metropolis. And the city's jails would open to receive a host of criminals headed by the lord of the green saucer and his human aides.

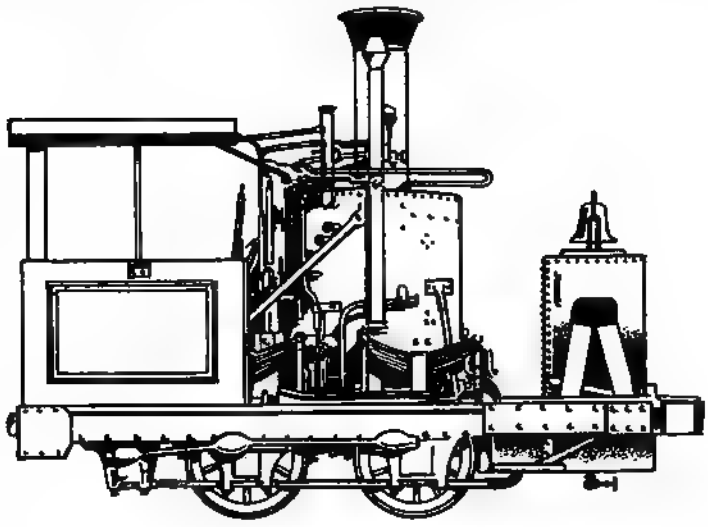
MODERN MARVELS

A 250 ft. high crane in a Swedish shipyard can lift 800 tons, which is equal to more than 900 cars.

Electric trains in Japan cover the 212 miles between Tokyo and Nagoya in two hours at an average speed of more than 106 mph.

A Swiss firm makes watches little more than half an inch long and three-sixteenths of an inch wide.

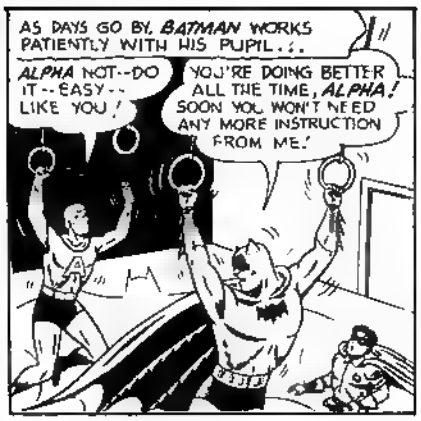
•SUPER DC MUSEUM•

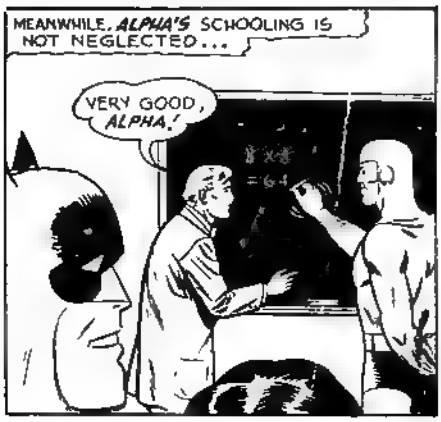


This American "grasshopper loco" which pulled the first train into Washington in 1835, was so called because of the driving action from rods to overhead beams.

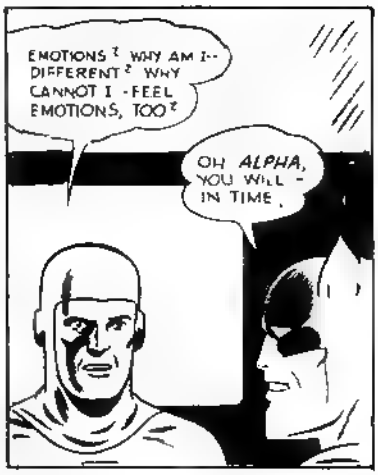
BATMAN
with ROBIN THE BOY WONDER
NOW BATMAN-- IT'S MY TURN TO PROTECT YOU!
ALPHA! GREAT SCOTT HE NOW HAS SUPER-HUMAN POWERS!
BOB KANE
MEET ALPHA THE MAN OF TOMORROW, WHO LIVES TODAY! ALPHA--A MAN WHO IS NOT OF FLESH AND BLOOD BUT OF SYNTHETICS! ALPHA - THE ARTIFICIAL MAN WHO WANTED TO BE HUMAN, TO FEEL HUMAN EMOTIONS -TO EVEN FEEL LOVE FOR BATWOMAN! ALPHA WHO WAS THE FRIEND OF BATMAN AND ROBIN -AND THEN BECAME THEIR ENEMY! MEET HIM NOW...
ALPHA, The Experimental Man!
IN A GREAT LABORATORY, MEN OF HIGH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY RANK WATCH EXPECTANTLY AS A SCIENTIST THROWS A SWITCH...
NOW--I WILL TURN OFF THE POWER! THEN I WILL OPEN THE DOOR OF THE CABINET!
SLOWLY, THE CABINET DOOR OPENS- AND FROM IT A FIGURE STEPS FORWARD HESITATINGLY...
GENTLEMEN, I INTRODUCE YOU TO-- ALPHA, THE ARTIFICIAL MAN!
AFTER YEARS OF TRIAL AND ERROR, YOU'VE FINALLY DONE IT - PERFECTED A LIVING CREATURE MADE ENTIRELY OF SYNTHETIC MATERIAL!
AS YET, ALPHA IS STILL LIKE A NEW BORN CHILD, STILL CLUMSY--SO HE'LL NEED SCHOOLING, ATHLETIC TRAINING...
BUT, DURING HIS TRAINING PERIOD, THAT MACHINE WILL GRADUALLY, OVER A YEAR'S TIME, DEVELOP HIS MENTAL AND PHYSICAL PROWESS...UNTIL ALPHA EVOLVES INTO A SUPER-BEING!
THE KIND OF BEING MAN HIMSELF COULD BECOME CENTURIES FROM NOW. HE'D BE INVALUABLE TO SCIENCE!
AMAZING! IF THIS SUCCEEDS WE COULD USE HIM IN OUR SPACE PROGRAMME, TOO--HE COULD EXPLORE PLANETS WHERE NO ORDINARY MAN COULD SURVIVE!
THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN THE MANSION OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...
GOSH! WE'RE ACTUALLY PART OF PROJECT ALPHA NOW!
YES, DICK -THE GOVERNMENT WANTS BATMAN TO HELP TRAIN ALPHA-- TO TEACH HIM COORDINATION AND DEVELOP HIS REFLEXES!
A CHANGE OF COSTUME TRANSFORMS THE TWO INTO THE RENOWNED BATMAN AND ROBIN.
SORRY, ACE BUT WE WON'T NEED YOU AS BAT-HOUND ON THIS ASSIGNMENT
ARF! ARF!
SHORTLY, THE FAMED TEAM MEETS THE EXPERIMENTAL MAN...
HELLO! I'M BATMAN- AND THIS IS ROBIN!
YOU--BATMAN! SMALL ONE--IS ROBIN! ME--ALPHA!

SOON, THE ATHLETIC TRAINING OF THE ARTIFICIAL MAN BEGINS...
WE MUST DEVELOP YOUR SENSE OF BALANCE, ALPHA! JUMP FROM ONE SPINNING DISC TO ANOTHER!
I- WILL - TRY--


AS DAYS GO BY, BATMAN WORKS PATIENTLY WITH HIS PUPIL...
ALPHA NOT--DO IT--EASY--LIKE YOU!
YOU'RE DOING BETTER ALL THE TIME, ALPHA! SOON YOU WON'T NEED ANY MORE INSTRUCTION FROM ME!


MEANWHILE, ALPHA'S SCHOOLING IS NOT NEGLECTED...
VERY GOOD, ALPHA!

TO ACQUAINT ALPHA WITH THE WAYS OF PEOPLE OUTSIDE THE PROJECT GROUNDS, MOVIES ARE SHOWN..
THOSE PEOPLE--MOVE THEIR FACES! MY FACE DOES NOT-MOVE! WHY?
THEIR FACES ARE SHOWING EXPRESSIONS! THAT'S BECAUSE PEOPLE FEEL WHAT WE CALL... EMOTIONS!

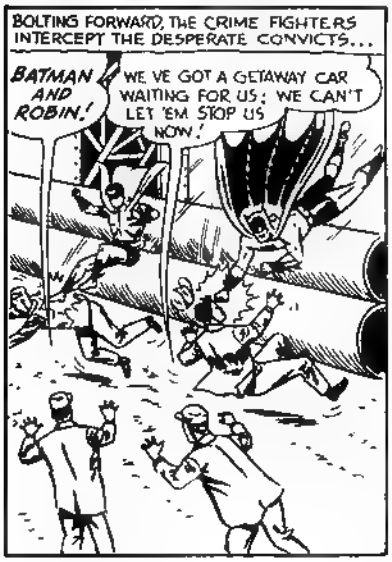

EMOTIONS? WHY AM I--DIFFERENT? WHY CANNOT I -FEEL EMOTIONS, TOO?
OH ALPHA, YOU WILL - IN TIME.

ALPHA, YOU KNOW THAT MACHINE I PUT YOU IN EVERY DAY! THE MACHINE IS GRADUALLY DEVELOPING YOUR EMOTIONS AS WELL AS YOUR STRENGTH
HMM! THE MACHINE IS ALREADY HAVING AN EFFECT! ALPHA IS BEGINNING TO THINK FOR HIMSELF!

A WEEK LATER..
DR. BURGOS, HOW ABOUT TAKING ALPHA FOR A DRIVE TODAY, TO GIVE HIM A CHANGE OF SCENERY?
GOOD IDEA! BUT REMEMBER, ALPHA IS A TOP PRIORITY PROJECT! HE MUST BE GUARDED CAREFULLY! DRIVE THROUGH THE COUNTRYSIDE, WHERE THERE'LL BE NO CHANCE FOR ANY TROUBLE!

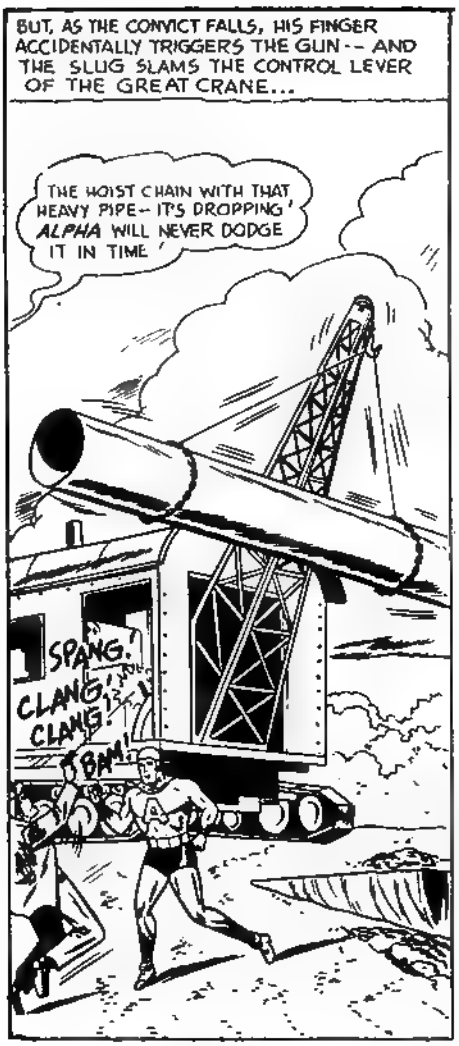
SHORTLY...
IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT WHAT YOU SEE, DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME! REMEMBER, I'M YOUR FRIEND!
YOU ALPHA'S FRIEND! THAT IS -GOOD!

UNEXPECTEDLY..
LOOK! ARMED CONVICTS! THEY MUST HAVE ESCAPED FROM THE STATE PRISON NEAR HERE!
ALPHA, ROBIN AND I MUST CAPTURE THOSE MEN! YOU STAY HERE--IN THE BATMOBILE!


BOLTING FORWARD, THE CRIME FIGHTERS INTERCEPT THE DESPERATE CONVICTS...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WE'VE GOT A GETAWAY CAR WAITING FOR US; WE CAN'T LET 'EM STOP US NOW!

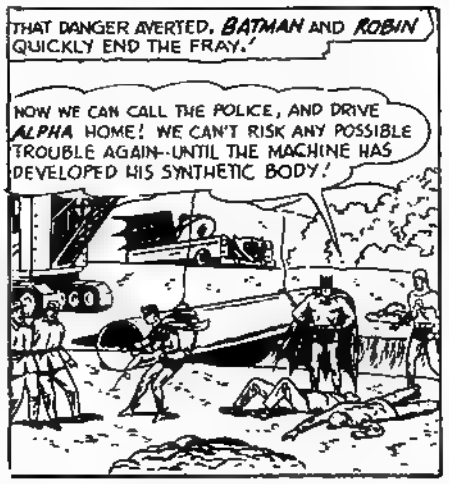
THAT MAN--HE TRIES TO--HURT BATMAN! BATMAN IS MY FRIEND! I MUST--HELP MY FRIEND

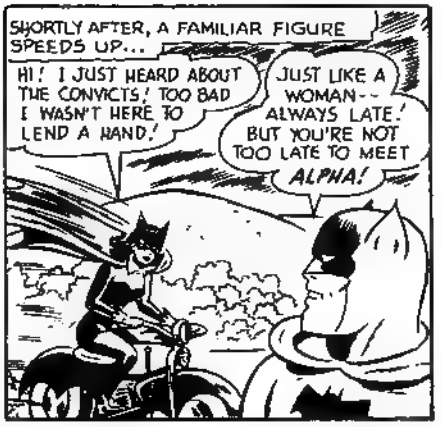
MOTIVATED BY LOYALTY TO THE MAN WHO HAS SHOWN HIM KINDNESS, ALPHA JOINS THE BATTLE!
BATMAN TAUGHT--ME BOXING! THIS IS CALLED -A RIGHT HOOK!


BUT, AS THE CONVICT FALLS, HIS FINGER ACCIDENTALLY TRIGGERS THE GUN -- AND THE SLUG SLAMS THE CONTROL LEVER OF THE GREAT CRANE...
THE HOIST CHAIN WITH THAT HEAVY PIPE-- IT'S DROPPING! ALPHA WILL NEVER DODGE IT IN TIME!
SPANG!
CLANG!
CLANG!
BAM!

LIKE A HUMAN MISSILE, BATMAN LAUNCHES HIMSELF FORWARD!
WE'RE BOTH GONERS --UNLESS WE FLOP INTO THAT GULLEY IN TIME!

THEY DO--AND CHEAT DEATH AS THE GREAT PIPE SMASHES DOWN ABOVE THEM!
PHEW! THAT WAS CUTTING IT CLOSE!
THUD!

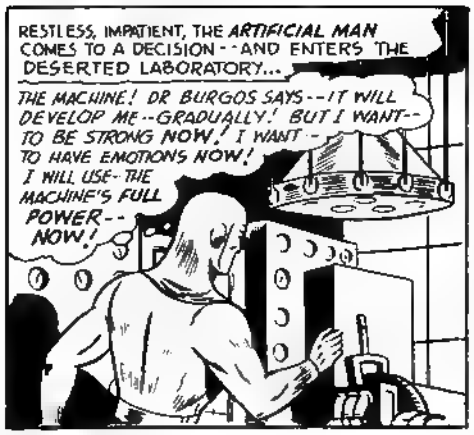

THAT DANGER AVERTED, BATMAN AND ROBIN QUICKLY END THE FRAY!
NOW WE CAN CALL THE POLICE, AND DRIVE ALPHA HOME! WE CAN'T RISK ANY POSSIBLE TROUBLE AGAIN--UNTIL THE MACHINE HAS DEVELOPED HIS SYNTHETIC BODY!


SHORTLY AFTER, A FAMILIAR FIGURE SPEEDS UP...
HI! I JUST HEARD ABOUT THE CONVICTS! TOO BAD I WASN'T HERE TO LEND A HAND!
JUST LIKE A WOMAN-- ALWAYS LATE! BUT YOU'RE NOT TOO LATE TO MEET ALPHA!

ALPHA, THIS IS BATWOMAN!
BATWOMAN! YOU ARE-- NOT UN-NICE TO LOOK AT!

DID YOU HEAR THAT COMPLIMENT, BATMAN? I WISH YOU COULD BE AS SWEET TO ME!
HER FACE --HER EYES-- THEY GROW SOFT--WHEN SHE LOOKS AT BATMAN! WHY? STRANGE, BUT I WANT HER TO LOOK THAT WAY--AT ME!

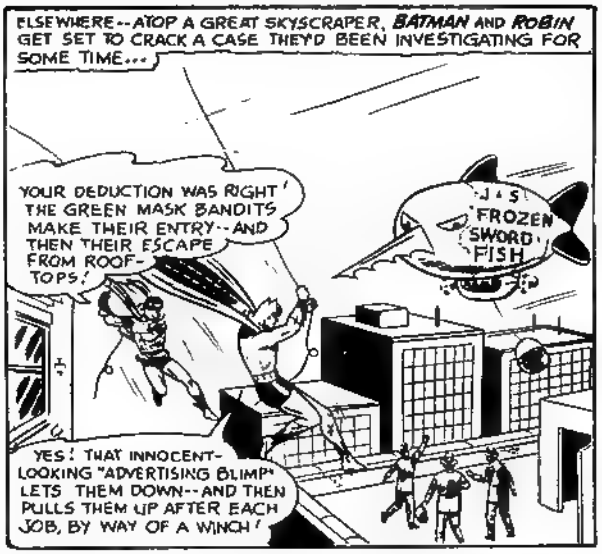
THAT NIGHT, ALPHA'S MIND IS STIRRED BY THE WONDER OF MANY THINGS HE CANNOT YET UNDERSTAND...
WHY DO I --KEEP THINKING-- OF BATWOMAN'S FACE! WHY CAN-NOT I--HAVE EMOTIONS? WHY MUST I-- BE DIFFERENT --THAT MY FRIEND, BATMAN -- MUST PROTECT ME?


RESTLESS, IMPATIENT, THE ARTIFICIAL MAN COMES TO A DECISION--AND ENTERS THE DESERTED LABORATORY...
THE MACHINE! DR BURGOS SAYS--IT WILL DEVELOP ME--GRADUALLY! BUT I WANT-- TO BE STRONG NOW! I WANT-- TO HAVE EMOTIONS NOW! I WILL USE-- THE MACHINE'S FULL POWER-- NOW!

SOON, CRACKLING ENERGY PERME-ATES THE SYNTHETIC MAN...
HUMMMM

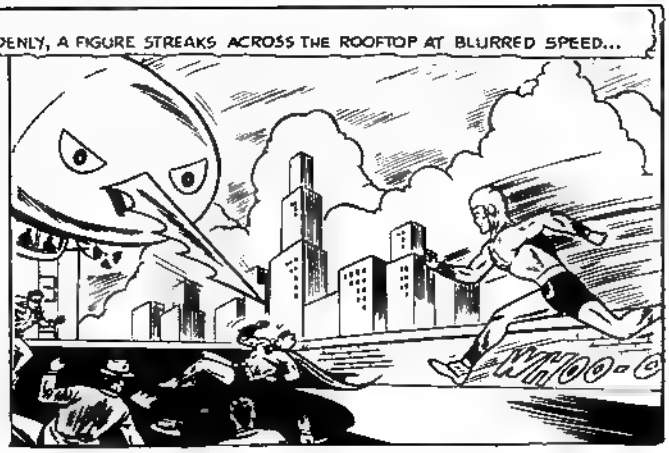
...ALTERING HIS MIND...
I CAN THINK CLEARER NOW...
HMMM

...HIS FACE... HIS BODY...
I FEEL EMOTIONS NOW! AND I FEEL GREAT STRENGTH! HOW HAPPY BATMAN WILL BE WHEN HE SEES ME AS I AM NOW!


ELSEWHERE--ATOP A GREAT SKYSCRAPER, BATMAN AND ROBIN GET SET TO CRACK A CASE THEY'D BEEN INVESTIGATING FOR SOME TIME...
YOUR DEDUCTION WAS RIGHT! THE GREEN MASK BANDITS MAKE THEIR ENTRY--AND THEN THEIR ESCAPE FROM ROOF-TOPS!
J. S. FROZEN SWORD FISH
YES! THAT INNOCENT-LOOKING "ADVERTISING BLIMP" LETS THEM DOWN--AND THEN PULLS THEM UP AFTER EACH JOB, BY WAY OF A WINCH!

SORRY, BUT IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU HIGH-FLYING BANDITS CAME DOWN TO EARTH!

BATMAN HAS TRIPPED AND THE BLIMP'S PILOT IS STEERING THE "SWORD" RIGHT AT HIM!


SUDDENLY, A FIGURE STREAKS ACROSS THE ROOFTOP AT BLURRED SPEED...
WHOO-O

NOW, BATMAN--IT IS MY TURN TO PROTECT YOU!
SNAP!
ALPHA! GREAT SCOTT! HE NOW HAS SUPER-HUMAN POWERS!

I WILL DESTROY YOUR ENEMIES SO THEY CAN NEVER MENACE YOU AGAIN!
NO, ALPHA--NO! YOU MUST NOT KILL! IT IS FOR THE COURTS TO DECIDE THEIR PUNISHMENT!

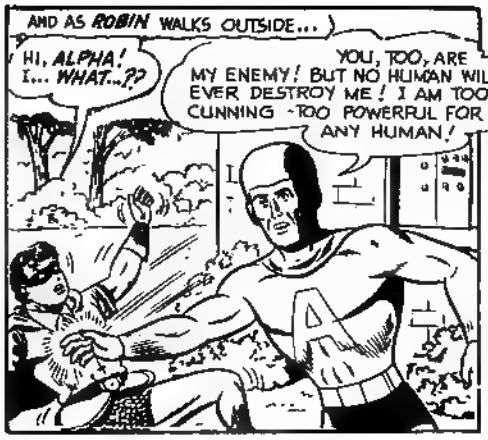
LATER, AFTER THE BANDITS ARE JAILED, ALPHA EXPLAINS...
...AND I BECAME SO IMPATIENT TO SHOW YOU MY NEW POWERS, I LEFT THE PROJECT GROUNDS TO SEARCH FOR YOU! ARE YOU NOT GLAD I DID?
UH... SURE... BUT NOW WE'D BETTER GET YOU BACK, BEFORE DR. BURGOS WONDERS WHERE YOU DISAPPEARED TO!

LATER, WHEN BATMAN IS ALONE WITH THE SCIENTIST...
EVEN THOUGH HE HAS SUPER-HUMAN STRENGTH, ALPHA'S MIND IS STILL IMMATURE! THAT KIND OF POWER IS DANGEROUS IF THE MIND IS UNSTABLE!
EXACTLY! BUT SOMETHING ELSE WORRIES ME...

THE REASON I WAS GRADUALLY DEVELOPING ALPHA WITH A MINIMUM OF THE MACHINE'S ENERGY, WAS BECAUSE ITS FULL ENERGY WOULD BE TOO MUCH FOR ALPHA'S SYNTHETIC MIND AND BODY TO TAKE AT ONE TIME! NOW, BECAUSE OF THAT, ALPHA'S MIND AND BODY WILL SOON DISINTEGRATE!

AS THE TWO MEN TALK, THEY ARE UNAWARE THAT ALPHA, WHILE STROLLING THE GROUNDS, HAS JUST STOPPED NEAR THE LABORATORY WINDOW...
WE MUST ACT FAST! WE MUST CANCEL OUT ALPHA'S SUPER-HUMAN POWERS, OR...
... ALPHA MUST DIE!.. ROBIN, ALPHA'S OUTSIDE SOMEWHERE! FIND HIM AND ASK HIM TO COME TO THE LAB!

SO! THEY'VE CHANGED THEIR MINDS ABOUT ME! THEY WANT TO DESTROY ME BECAUSE THEY'RE AFRAID I'M TOO SUPERIOR TO THEM! HUMANS NOW HATE ME! EVEN BATMAN IS AGAINST ME!


AND AS ROBIN WALKS OUTSIDE...
HI, ALPHA! I... WHAT...??
YOU, TOO, ARE MY ENEMY! BUT NO HUMAN WILL EVER DESTROY ME! I AM TOO CUNNING -TOO POWERFUL FOR ANY HUMAN!

HEARING THE COMMOTION, BATMAN AND DR. BURGOS RUSH OUT...
ALPHA WAS NEAR THE OPEN LAB WINDOW WHEN I CAME OUT!
HE MUST HAVE HEARD THE LAST PART OF OUR CONVERSATION AND MISINTERPRETED IT! WE'VE GOT TO FIND ALPHA AND MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND!

SWIFTLY, AFTER BATMAN BRIEFS POLICE HEADQUARTERS, AN ALARM IS BROADCAST--AND IS HEARD BY BATWOMAN!
POLICE ARE URGED TO TRY TO PERSUADE ALPHA INTO RETURNING TO THE PROJECT LABORATORY!
POOR ALPHA! HE MUST BE SO BITTER! IF ONLY I CAN REACH HIM-- TALK TO HIM...

SHORTLY AFTER, POLICE FINALLY COME UPON THE SYNTHETIC MAN RUNNING WILD THROUGH GOTHAM CITY...
IF ANY MORE OF THAT BUILDING WALL IS PUSHED IN, IT WILL FALL ON THE PEOPLE TRAPPED INSIDE! WE'LL HAVE TO FIRE -TRY TO WOUND HIM, OR INNOCENT PEOPLE WILL BE HURT!
EMOTION! NOW I HAVE THEM! I CAN HATE! HATE HUMANS!

HA! HA! NOT EVEN BULLETS CAN HURT ME! I AM INVINCIBLE!
WELL-- AT LEAST THE SHOTS DREW HIM AWAY FROM THAT WALL!
BAM!
BAM!

WITH A CONTEMPTUOUS LAUGH, ALPHA RACES AWAY--UNAWARE THAT BATWOMAN IS NOW IN PURSUIT!
HUMANS ARE WEAKLINGS! I WILL NOT EVEN WASTE MY TIME ON THEM ANYMORE!
IF ONLY I CAN TALK TO HIM ALONE- GET HIM TO TRUST ME -THEN I'LL MAKE HIM UNDERSTAND...

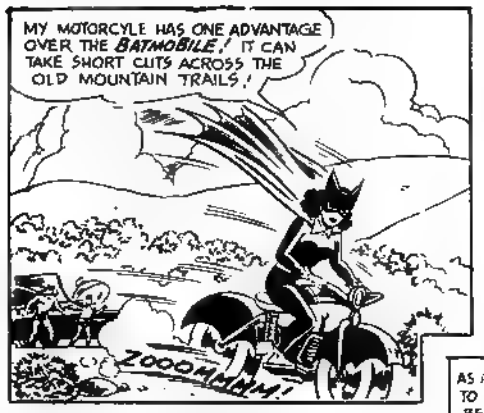
AT LAST, JUST OUTSIDE THE CITY...
ALPHA! YOU ONCE LIKED ME - REMEMBER? I'M ALONE NO ONE IS WITH ME! ALL I WANT TO DO IS TALK TO YOU! PLEASE!
YOU ARE SO BEAUTIFUL! I--I TRUST YOU...

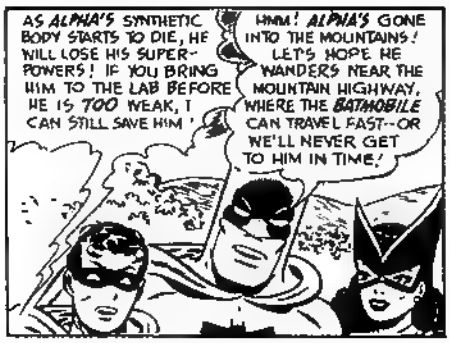
BUT, SUDDENLY, ANOTHER VEHICLE SPEEDS UP..
BATWOMAN! YOU FOUND HIM! GOOD! NOW WE CAN TAKE HIM BACK TO THE LAB!
OH! NOW ALPHA WILL BELIEVE I LIED TO TRICK HIM INTO A TRAP!

INFURIATED BY WHAT HE THINKS IS BATWOMAN'S BETRAYAL, ALPHA LUNGES FORWARD AND...
YOU HUMANS WANT TO DESTROY ME BECAUSE I AM SUPERIOR TO YOU! BUT I SHALL DESTROY YOU INSTEAD!
NO, ALPHA -- YOU'RE WRONG! WE'RE YOUR FRIENDS! DON'T HARM US, ALPHA!

DESPITE HIS BITTERNESS, ALPHA IS MOVED BY BATWOMAN'S PLEADING EYES..
BATWOMAN, I--I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT I CANNOT BEAR THE THOUGHT OF HARMING YOU! I--I THINK I HAVE FOR YOU, THE EMOTION YOU HUMANS CALL LOVE!
OH, ALPHA...

WITH A LOOK OF DESPAIR, ALPHA SUDDENLY STREAKS INTO THE MOUNTAIN WILDS BEYOND..
DR. BURGOS-- CALLING ME ON THE POLICE WAVE LENGTH...
BATMAN- YOU MUST BRING BACK ALPHA SOON! HE HASN'T MUCH TIME LEFT...


MY MOTORCYLE HAS ONE ADVANTAGE OVER THE BATMOBILE! IT CAN TAKE SHORT CUTS ACROSS THE OLD MOUNTAIN TRAILS!
ZOOOMMMM!

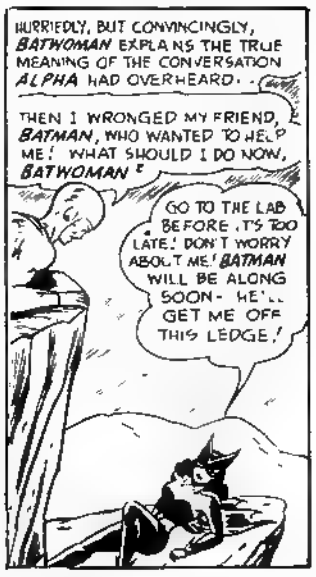

AS ALPHA'S SYNTHETIC BODY STARTS TO DIE, HE WILL LOSE HIS SUPER-POWERS! IF YOU BRING HIM TO THE LAB BEFORE HE IS TOO WEAK, I CAN STILL SAVE HIM!
HMM! ALPHA'S GONE INTO THE MOUNTAINS! LET'S HOPE HE WANDERS NEAR THE MOUNTAIN HIGHWAY, WHERE THE BATMOBILE CAN TRAVEL FAST--OR WE'LL NEVER GET TO HIM IN TIME!

SOON AFTER, BATWOMAN CATCHES SIGHT OF ALPHA AHEAD--AND GUNS HER MOTORCYLCE FORWARD...
ALPHA! WAIT! I MUST TALK TO YOU! PLEASE DON'T RUN AWAY AGAIN!

ABRUPTLY, THE MOTORCYLE SKIDS ON A DAMP, SLICK PATCH OF MOSS, AND...
EEEEE!
BATWOMAN!

AS IF BY A MIRACLE, BATWOMAN DROPS TO A JUTTING LEDGE OF ROCK BELOW..
OHH, MY LEG--I--I THINK IT'S FRACTURED!

ARE--ARE YOU IN PAIN?
I DON'T MIND THE PAIN TOO MUCH NOW! AT LEAST MY FALL SERVED A PURPOSE! ALPHA HAS STOPPED RUNNING! AT LAST I'LL HAVE MY CHANCE TO TALK TO HIM!


HURRIEDLY, BUT CONVINCINGLY, BATWOMAN EXPLAINS THE TRUE MEANING OF THE CONVERSATION ALPHA HAD OVERHEARD..
THEN I WRONGED MY FRIEND, BATMAN, WHO WANTED TO HELP ME! WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW, BATWOMAN?
GO TO THE LAB BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE! DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME! BATMAN WILL BE ALONG SOON- HE'LL GET ME OFF THIS LEDGE!

UNEXPECTEDLY..
OHH! THE LOOSE ROCKS SUPPORTING THE LEDGE ARE DROPPING! MY WEIGHT IS MAKING THE LEDGE SAG!
DON'T WORRY! I'LL SAVE YOU! YOU FORGET I HAVE SUPER-POWERS!

SUDDENLY, THE EXPERIMENTAL MAN FEELS A STRANGE SENSATION COURSING THROUGH HIS BODY.
I--I FEEL WEAK--AS IF ALL MY STRENGTH IS BEING DRAINED AWAY!
ALPHA! THE DISINTEGRATION HAS BEGUN! HURRY--FIND BATMAN! THE BATMOBILE CAN GET YOU TO THE LAB IN TIME!

BUT ALPHA RESPONDS TO AN INSTINCT THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO HIM THAN HIS OWN SURVIVAL!..
ALPHA! GO BACK! YOU STILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SAVE YOURSELF! GO BACK!
NO! I COULD NOT LIVE, KNOWING I LET YOU DIE!

WITH HIS DWINDLING STRENGTH, ALPHA WEDGES HIMSELF INTO THE GAP--SO THAT HIS BODY SUPPORTS THE LEDGE...
I HOPE BATMAN FIND US SOON TO SAVE YOU--BEFORE I AM TOO WEAK TO HOLD UP THE LEDGE!
I HOPE SO, TOO BUT SO THAT HE CAN ALSO SAVE YOU!

SHORTLY, BATWOMAN'S PRAYERS ARE ANSWERED.
HURRY, BATMAN! HELP ALPHA!
WE'RE WORKING AS FAST AS WE CAN!

BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE TO SAVE ALPHA, FOR HE NO LONGER HAS THE STRENGTH TO LIVE!
OH, BATMAN! ;SOB; HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE TO SAVE MINE! ;SOB;

DAYS LATER, THOSE WHO KNEW HIM BEST, PAY HOMAGE TO THE MEMORY OF ALPHA, THE EXPERIMENTAL MAN!
ALPHA

FIGHTING COOK OF THE RAF

IN 1954 Dick McTaggart announced that he was giving up boxing. He was growing too heavy to fight within the featherweight limit and he did not feel he was good enough for the lightweight division. But Jack Roy, British Olympic boxing coach, promised him, "Come up to the lightweights and you will win an Olympic medal."

And so 1956 found the 21-year-old RAF cook in Melbourne, one of the seven-strong British team. A Scot from Dundee, Dick had joined a local boxing club when he was only eight. He and his five brothers, two older and three younger, had always been scrapping; they were known as "the fighting McTaggarts". Dick had won his first trophy at 12 when he beat his brother Archie, a year older, in the final of a local championship.

His first Olympic match was against Chandra Jayasuriya, a policeman from Ceylon. The Hungarian, Russian and American judges were unanimous in giving the verdict to Dick.

He then outpointed a Frenchman and a Russian. And so the night of the finals arrived with Dick McTaggart of Britain against Harry Kurschat of Germany, a Berlin bricklayer who was the lightweight champion of Europe. He had been champion of Germany for four years and was a veteran of 225 fights.

The preliminaries were quickly over and Dick went into the attack. Within 30 seconds he had got his right fist square to the German's jaw and Kurschat was down for a count of eight. When he got up, still groggy, Dick gave him another right and put him down for another count of eight.

But the German was no walk-over. In the second round he came back hard. Dick had to give ground, his nose bleeding, his legs shaking. But the German went at him too hard and the Russian referee pull him up twice for hitting the scrubby-topped southpaw on the back of the neck.

Round three was the most action-packed of the most exciting fight ever seen at the Olympics. Dick caught the German two lefts to the midriff that doubled him up and the German landed a right swing to Dick's mouth that removed his gumshield.

But then Dick was standing on the gilt pedestal while the national anthem was played. He had won Britain's first Olympic boxing title for 30 years. He also won the Val Barker trophy for the best Olympic stylist, Terry Spinks, the Cockney flyweight, collected another gold and between them the British team had two gold, one silver and two bronze medals.

Back in Dundee Dick was chaired out of the darkness of Tay Bridge Station with cheers of welcome almost drowning the pipe band. He won the ABA lightweight championship in 1956, 1958 and 1960 and then the light-welterweight championship in 1963 and 1965.

TOP WEIGHTS IN EACH CLASS

	World	*Amateur*
Flyweight	8 stone	8 stone
Bantamweight	8 stone 6lb	8 stone 7lb
Featherweight	9 stone	9 stone
Junior Lightweight	9 stone 4lb	9 stone 4lb
Lightweight	9 stone 9lb	9 stone 7lb
Junior Welterweight	10 stone	10 stone
Welterweight	10 stone 7lb	10 stone 8lb
Middleweight	11 stone 6lb	11 stone 11lb
Light Heavyweight	12 stone 7lb	12 stone 10lb
Heavyweight	any weight	any weight

SPORTFACTS

First generally recognised world boxing champion was Britain's James Figg who won the title — bare-knuckle style — in 1719 and held it for 15 years.

More than 100,000 table tennis matches are played in England every evening between September and May.

Charles Zibbelman, a legless man, swam for 168 hours non-stop in a pool in Honolulu in 1941.

When Sir Alf Ramsey became manager of Ipswich football team in 1956 it was nowhere in the Third Division; in 1962 they achieved the championship of the First Division.

Zolilio Diaz of Spain bowled a hoop 600 miles from Mieres to Madrid and back in 18 days in 1968.

Biggest sports pitches are those used for polo — 300 yards by 200 yards. And polo's Bangalore Cup is six feet high.

In 1814 only the wicket at Lord's cricket ground was mown; every Saturday 500 sheep were driven on to the pitch to crop the rest of the grass.

Ex-racing driver Stirling Moss had his first car at the age of 10 — a bodyless Austin Seven which he used to drive on the family farm.

More than seven and a half million people around the world play in organised table tennis matches.

Kites flown by American schoolboys in Indiana reached a record height of 35,500 ft. The flight lasted seven hours.

Beryl Swain became in 1962 the first woman to ride a motorcycle in the Isle of Man TT races; competing in the 50 cc class she came 22nd out of 33 starters.

SUPERGIRL

THE SENTRY OF THE **EVIL-EYED ONES** IS SHOOTING FIRE-BEAMS AT THE EARTH GIRL, BUT SHE IS UNHARMED!

WAIT'LL **SUPERMAN** HEARS ABOUT **THIS**, BACK ON EARTH! UNDER A GREEN SUN I'M DOING THE IMPOSSIBLE BY DISPLAYING **INVULNERABILITY!**

AFTER SHE CRASH-LANDS A TEST SPACE CRAFT IN A FAR-OFF SOLAR SYSTEM WITH A **GREEN SUN**, YOU WOULD EXPECT **SUPERGIRL** TO **LOSE** HER SUPER-POWERS WHICH SHE ONLY POSSESSES UNDER A **YELLOW SUN!** BUT WHAT'S THIS? IS THE **GIRL OF STEEL** ACTUALLY DISPLAYING SUPER-ABILITIES ANYWAY? READ ON AND LEARN THE SECRET OF THIS AND OTHER FEATS PERFORMED ON A WORLD OF WEIRD FLORA AND FAUNA BY.

"The GREEN SUN SUPERGIRL!"

IN THE DORMITORY LOUNGE OF STANHOPE COLLEGE ONE DAY, AS THE GIRLS TUNE IN A SPECIAL NASA ANNOUNCEMENT...

AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS ARE NOW PERFORMING **SPACE RENDEZVOUS** TASKS, MEN, THAT IS! BUT WE ALSO HOPE TO TRAIN **GIRL ASTRONAUTS** FOR SUCH A PROJECT, AND

...WE HAVE DESIGNED SPACESUITS FOR THEM! **SUPERGIRL** HAS KINDLY CONSENTED TO **TEST** THE NEW "**ASTRONETTE**" SUIT FOR US! THE COUNTDOWN HAS STARTED AND THE LAUNCH WILL TAKE PLACE TODAY!

WHAT A DREAMY LIFE **SUPERGIRL** LEADS-- GLAMOUR, EXCITEMENT, ADVENTURE! HOW I WISH I WERE HER SECRET IDENTITY!

YOU, JOAN? DON'T BE REDIC! BUT I WONDER.. IS SHE LIVING WITH A RICH FAMILY... OR A SCIENTIST?... OR MAYBE A DIPLOMAT?

WHAT DO YOU THINK, LINDA?

WHO KNOWS? **SUPERGIRL'S** ALTER-EGO MIGHT EVEN.. UH, BE REGISTERED HERE AT STANHOPE AS A STUDENT!...

...WHICH SHE **IS**, AND IT'S TIME FOR ME TO FULFILL THAT **NASA** MISSION!

YES, IT IS CO-ED LINDA LEE DANVERS WHO IN SECLUSION CHANGES TO THE FAMED **GIRL OF STEEL**, AND SOARS SOUTH...

CAPE KENNEDY, GATEWAY TO SPACE! MY LAUNCH ROCKET IS NEARING THE END OF THE COUNTDOWN!

T-MINUS ONE MINUTE AND COUNTING!

HIGH ON THE GANTRY WHERE THE SPACE-CRAFT IS PERCHED ATOP THE MIGHTY BOOSTER...

YOUR FLIGHT CODE IS **SA-1**, FOR "**SUPER-ASTRONETTE ONE**" **SUPERGIRL**! YOU WILL TEST THAT 'ASTRONETTE' SUIT IN **EVA!**

THAT STANDS FOR "EXTRA-VEHICULAR ACTIVITY", OR LEAVING THE SPACECRAFT! I'LL BRING YOU BACK A FULL REPORT, SIR!

COUNT-DOWN ZERO!... AND THE LAUNCH!

3.. 2.. 1.. 0.. **LIFT OFF!**

SA-1 TO **NASA** CONTROL! LAUNCH SEQUENCE NORMAL, ALL SYSTEMS GO!

BUT IN SPACE, AS **SUPERGIRL** EMERGES TO TEST THE EXPERIMENTAL SPACESUIT...

GOODNESS! MICROMETEORITES PUNCTURED THE SPACESUIT, LETTING THE AIR LEAK OUT! I'M INVULNERABLE TO HARM, BUT I'LL REPORT THAT THIS SUIT NEEDS A HARDER LINING BEFORE AN ASTRONETTE VENTURES IN SPACE.

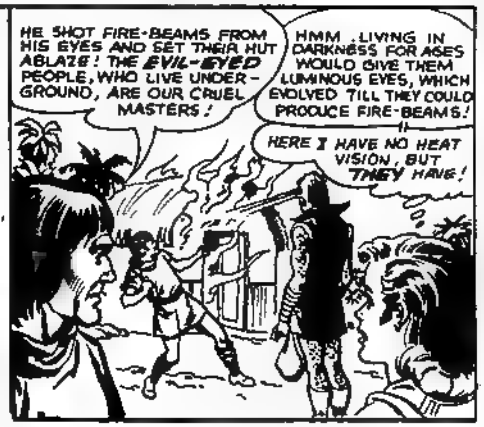
SUDDENLY, BACK INSIDE THE SPACECRAFT..
NOW TO START THE RETRO-ROCKETS FOR RE-ENTRY TO EARTH.. WAIT! SOMETHING WRENCHED THE CRAFT AROUND, AS IF IN THE GRIP OF POWERFUL FORCES!
BY CHANCE, SUPERGIRL HAS ENCOUNTERED A STRANGE NEW SPACE PHENOMENON!
LIKE THE GULF STREAM, THIS IS A "WARP STREAM" IN THE "OCEAN OF SPACE" MY CRAFT IS BEING SWEPT FAR FROM EARTH. - BUT WHERE TO..? I'LL STICK WITH THE SHIP.. IT COST THE TAX-PAYERS 10 MILLION!
TIMELESS MOMENTS LATER.
GREAT KRYPTON! I'M IN ANOTHER SOLAR SYSTEM! AND THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM WAS KNOCKED OUT! H-HOW WILL I FIND MY WAY BACK TO EARTH AGAIN?
ENGINE INACTIVE
CONSULTING THE CRAFT'S SPACE MANUAL..
HMM.. "IN EMERGENCY, REACTIVATE GUIDANCE CIRCUIT WITH RADIO-ACTIVE RAYS!" AH, THE SENSOR SHOWS A RADIOACTIVE SPOT ON THAT WORLD I'M APPROACHING!
RADIO ACTIVE
AS THE DAMAGED RE-ENTRY ROCKETS FAIL TO WORK PROPERLY, THE SHIP PLUNGES DOWNWARD!
I'M GOING TO CRASH-LAND! WELL, WHY WORRY.. OH MY GOODNESS! I JUST NOTICED THIS SOLAR SYSTEM'S SUN IT'S GREEN! THAT MEANS I-I HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS HERE!
AND, STRIPPED OF HER MIGHTY ABILITIES, SUPER-GIRL IS FLUNG OUT, HELPLESS AS AN ORDINARY MORTAL...
CAN'T SAVE MYSELF.. IS THIS THE END? OHHHH...
BRUISED AND BLEEDING, WILL SUPERGIRL MEET AN OBSCURE DEATH ON THIS ALIEN WORLD?
SUDDENLY, SOMETHING SPLASHES IN HER FACE!
UH.. I'M REVIVING! IS THIS SOME SORT OF GOLDEN RAIN?
SUPERGIRL RECEIVES AN ANSWER BY TELEPATHY...
NO, STRANGER! IT IS SPRAYED FROM THAT PLANT, WHICH WE "MILK" FOR ITS GOLDEN NECTAR!
THANKS, BUT.. GROAN!... I'M TOO WEAK TO GET UP. AND I'M SO BRUISED ALL OVER THAT ONLY A HOSPITAL COULD HELP ME!
STRANGE I HEAR THEIR THOUGHTS AS CLEARLY AS IF THEY WERE SPEAKING!
HOSPITAL? WE KNOW NOT WHAT YOU MEAN! BUT THE NECTAR ALSO TURNS STICKY AFTER A TIME, TO FORM THIS GOLDEN OINTMENT WHICH HEALS ALL WOUNDS!
AND THE NECTAR IS OUR BEST FOOD DRINK!
MOMENTS LATER, MIRACULOUSLY...
WHY, MY BRUISES ARE HEALED! AND I FEEL AS IF I'D EATEN A HEARTY STEAK DINNER! WONDERFUL!
BUT WHERE ARE YOU FROM? HOW DID YOU SUDDENLY APPEAR ON OUR WORLD, LUMAL?
I CAME IN THAT SPACECRAFT FROM EARTH, WHERE THEY CALL ME SUPERG....
WAIT! NO USE TRYING TO EXPLAIN MY SUPER-POWERS, WHICH I DON'T HAVE UNDER THAT GREEN SUN! IT'S THE RAYS OF A YELLOW SUN THAT GIVE ME MY SUPER-ABILITIES! I'LL USE MY OTHER NAME..

JUST CALL ME...ER... LINDA! I'M STRANDED ON YOUR WORLD UNLESS I CAN FIND A CERTAIN GLOWING MINERAL WHICH I SPOTTED FROM THE SKY!
THEN YOU MUST STAY WITH US, LINDA! WE ARE THROUGH MILKING THE GOLDEN NECTAR TREES! COME!

ON THE WAY TO THE COUPLE'S HOME, THEY PASS ANOTHER ODDITY OF THIS WORLD!
WHERE'S THAT MARVELLOUS MUSIC COMING FROM?
FROM THE BOTTOM OF THE GLASS PIT, LINDA! LOOK DOWN AND YOU WILL SEE THE RARE...

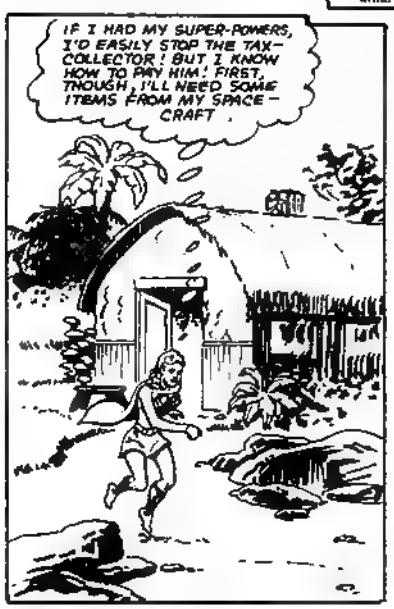
...SINGING CRYSTALS! THEY ARE A PRICELESS TREASURE, BUT NOBODY CAN GET THEM, FOR THE GLASS PIT IS THE LAIR OF THOSE DRAGOMONSTERS!

SUPERGIRL SOON MEETS A WORSE "MONSTER"-- IN HUMAN FORM!
THE TAX-COLLECTOR FROM THE EVIL-EYED PEOPLE IS MAKING HIS ROUNDS! I'M AFRAID MY NEIGHBOUR IS IN TROUBLE!
THIS IS ONLY HALF ENOUGH MONEY! YOU KNOW THE PENALTY FOR FAILING TO PAY YOUR TAXES!


HE SHOT FIRE-BEAMS FROM HIS EYES AND SET THEIR HUT ABLAZE! THE EVIL-EYED PEOPLE, WHO LIVE UNDER-GROUND, ARE OUR CRUEL MASTERS!
HMM. LIVING IN DARKNESS FOR AGES WOULD GIVE THEM LUMINOUS EYES, WHICH EVOLVED TILL THEY COULD PRODUCE FIRE-BEAMS!
HERE I HAVE NO HEAT VISION, BUT THEY HAVE!

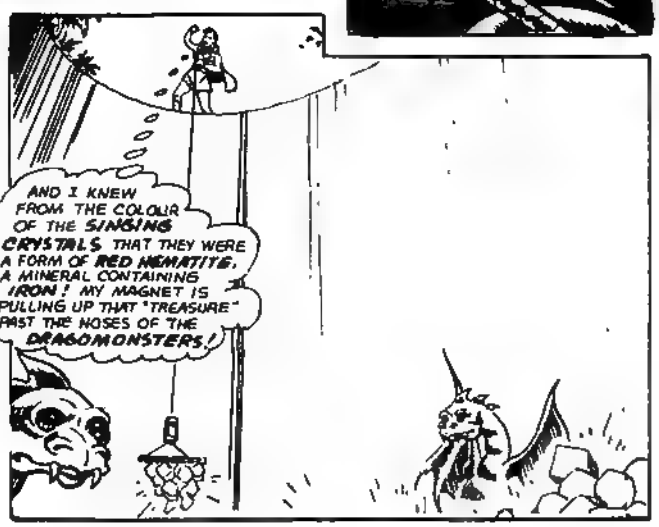
WHEN THE TAX-COLLECTOR LEAVES...
EVERYTHING BURNED TO ASHES ...EXCEPT THIS AMAZING TRANSPARENT SHEET OF PLASTIC!
WE USE IT FOR OUR WINDOW PANES! BUT WE MUST HURRY HOME, LINDA, AND SEE IF WE HAVE ENOUGH TAX-MONEY SAVED!

AT THE HUT OF SUPERGIRL'S FRIENDS...
GOODNESS! YOU USE STONE MONEY?
YES! SUCH SMALL, ROUND STONES ARE VALUABLE ON OUR WORLD! BUT WE'RE SHORT FOR THE TAXES! WHEN THE COLLECTOR COMES HERE, OUR HOME WILL BE BURNED...CHOKE!


IF I HAD MY SUPER-POWERS, I'D EASILY STOP THE TAX-COLLECTOR! BUT I KNOW HOW TO PAY HIM! FIRST, THOUGH, I'LL NEED SOME ITEMS FROM MY SPACE-CRAFT.

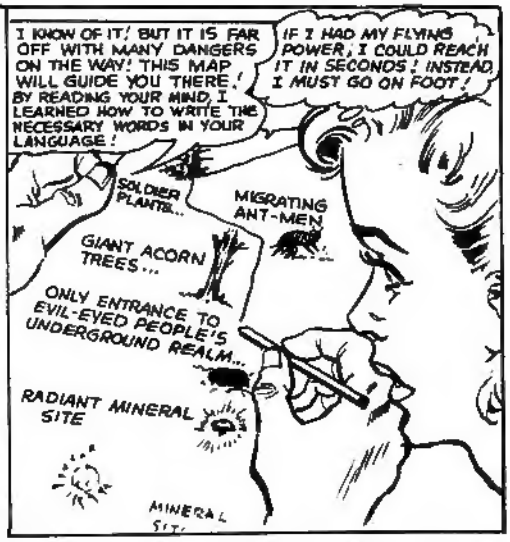
SOON
ALL SPACECRAFT HAVE BACK-UP DEVICES IN CASE ANY PART FAILS! SO THERE'S NO HARM IN PULLING OUT WHAT I NEED. AN IRON BAR. LOTS OF WIRE...AND THAT POWERFUL BATTERY! I'LL TAKE THEM TO THE GLASS PIT!

SUPERGIRL UTILIZES A BASIC SCIENCE PRINCIPLE!
THE ELECTRICITY FROM THE BATTERY, RUNNING THROUGH THAT COPPER COIL I WOUND AROUND THE IRON BAR, TURNED IT INTO AN ELECTRO-MAGNET!


AND I KNEW FROM THE COLOUR OF THE SINGING CRYSTALS THAT THEY WERE A FORM OF RED HEMATITE, A MINERAL CONTAINING IRON! MY MAGNET IS PULLING UP THAT "TREASURE" PAST THE NOSES OF THE DRAGOMONSTERS!

BACK AT THE HUT...
YOU ARE SHORT ON TAXES, SO I'LL BURN YOUR HUT...
STOP! WILL THESE PAY THEIR DEBT?

THE COLLECTOR HAPPILY TAKES THE CRYSTALS AND LEAVES THE STONE MONEY UNTOUCHED...
BUT HOW DID YOU GET THE SINGING CRYSTALS, LINDA?
NEVER MIND! I USED EARTH SCIENCE YOU WOULDN'T UNDERSTAND! WILL YOU HELP ME NOW TO FIND THE RADIOACTIVE DEPOSIT I SAW ON YOUR WORLD? IT'S A GLOWING MINERAL!


I KNOW OF IT! BUT IT IS FAR OFF WITH MANY DANGERS ON THE WAY! THIS MAP WILL GUIDE YOU THERE! BY READING YOUR MIND, I LEARNED HOW TO WRITE THE NECESSARY WORDS IN YOUR LANGUAGE!
IF I HAD MY FLYING POWER, I COULD REACH IT IN SECONDS! INSTEAD, I MUST GO ON FOOT!
SOLDIER PLANTS...
MIGRATING ANT-MEN
GIANT ACORN TREES...
ONLY ENTRANCE TO EVIL-EYED PEOPLE'S UNDERGROUND REALM...
RADIANT MINERAL SITE
MINERAL SITE

THE KINDLY COUPLE SENDS SUPERGIRL ON HER WAY WITH VITAL SUPPLIES...
WHEN YOU RUN OUT OF GOLDEN NECTAR FOOD, OR NECTAR OINTMENT FOR INJURIES, BUY THEM WITH THOSE STONE COINS! GOOD LUCK AND FAREWELL, LINDA!

SETTING OUT ON HER JOURNEY, SUPERGIRL SOON ENCOUNTERS THE WEIRD...AND MENACING...
"SOLDIER PLANTS" MARKED ON THE MAP!
GO BACK, GIRL! WE HOPED TO FIND GOLDEN NECTAR TREES HERE, BUT WHO CAN PASS THOSE PLANTS GUARDING THIS LAND?
GREAT STARS! THE PLANTS FLING OUT THEIR SPINES... LIKE SPEARS!

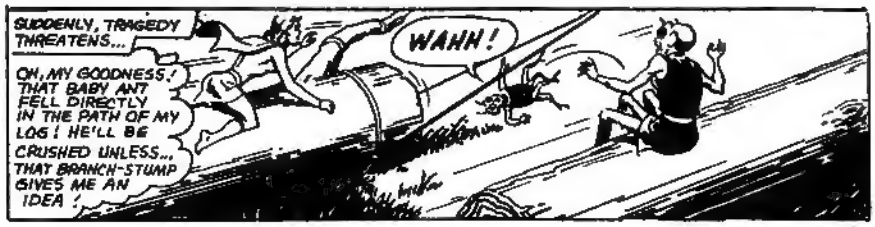
BUT I MUST CROSS THIS LAND TO REACH THE RADIOACTIVE MINERALS I NEED! HMM... THESE SUPPLIES MAY SOLVE MY PROBLEM!

LATER, THE MEN STARE IN AMAZEMENT, AS...
LOOK! THE SOLDIER-PLANTS' SPEARS ONLY BOUNCE OFF HER! SHE'S INDESTRUCTIBLE!
NO, I'M NOT! I STUCK THE STONE MONEY TOGETHER WITH STICKY NECTAR OINTMENT TO FORM...

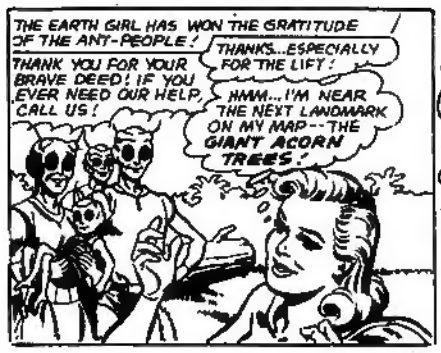
...A BULLET-PROOF VEST! NOW I CAN SIMPLY WALK PAST THE SOLDIER-PLANTS AND CROSS THEIR LAND! BUT IT'S LUCKY THEY AREN'T AIMING AT MY HEAD!

WITHOUT HER SUPER-STRENGTH, SUPERGIRL GROWS TIRED AFTER MILES OF HIKING...
ALL TUCKERED OUT...; PANT! WAIT! THOSE ARE THE "MIGRATING ANT-MEN" OF THE MAP! THEY TOW THEIR WOMENFOLK, ON LOGS! HMM... I'LL JUST...

...HITCH A RIDE! THAT POWERFUL ANT-MAN IS PULLING THIS PETRIFIED LOG AT A FAST CLIP! THEY TALK TELEPATHICALLY BY VIBRATING THEIR ANTENNAE! NO ONE WAS ON THIS LOG! GUESS THE ANT-MAN DOESN'T MIND TAKING A PASSENGER!
HANG ON, MY FRIEND! SEE HOW FAST I AM?


SUDDENLY, TRAGEDY THREATENS...
WAHH!
OH, MY GOODNESS! THAT BABY ANT FELL DIRECTLY IN THE PATH OF MY LOG! HE'LL BE CRUSHED UNLESS... THAT BRANCH-STUMP GIVES ME AN IDEA!

THOUGH NON-SUPER, SUPERGIRL CAN STILL USE ACROBATIC TRICKS!
WITH MY LEGS WRAPPED AROUND THE STUMP, I CAN LEAN FORWARD AND... AH! SNATCHED HIM OUT OF HARM'S WAY, JUST IN TIME! BATWOMAN COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT BETTER!


THE EARTH GIRL HAS WON THE GRATITUDE OF THE ANT-PEOPLE!
THANK YOU FOR YOUR BRAVE DEED! IF YOU EVER NEED OUR HELP, CALL US!
THANKS...ESPECIALLY FOR THE LIFT!
HMM... I'M NEAR THE NEXT LANDMARK ON MY MAP--THE GIANT ACORN TREES!

MY FRIENDS TOLD ME THE ACORNS CONTAIN A DEADLY GAS! ULP! THE MEREST VIBRATION OF MY FOOTSTEPS MADE THAT GIANT ACORN LOOSEN AND DROP... EEK! I B-BARELY JUMPED CLEAR IN TIME! BUT HUNDREDS WILL FALL IN MY PATH, AS I WALK ALONG... GULP! THERE'S ONLY ONE CHANCE!

CRAWLING CAREFULLY ON MY HANDS AND KNEES, I DON'T JAR THE GROUND AT ALL! IT'S A HARD WAY, BUT THE ONLY SAFE ONE!

AFTER LEAVING THE GIANT FOREST, SUPERGIRL APPROACHES THE GREATEST DANGER OF ALL!
BEWARE, GIRL! THAT PIT IS THE ONLY ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND REALM OF THE EVIL-EYED ONES. THEY GUARD IT JEALOUSLY!

HALT, INTERLOPER... UH... I THOUGHT THAT LEAPING ANIMAL WAS A HUMAN INTRUDER!
SEE WHAT I MEAN? IF YOU TRY TO PASS, YOU WILL BE DESTROYED BY A SENTRY'S FIRE-BEAM!

BUT MOMENTS LATER...
HI, BIG EYES! MIND IF I PASS THROUGH?
FOOLISH GIRL! ONE MORE STEP AND I SHALL BURN YOU DOWN!

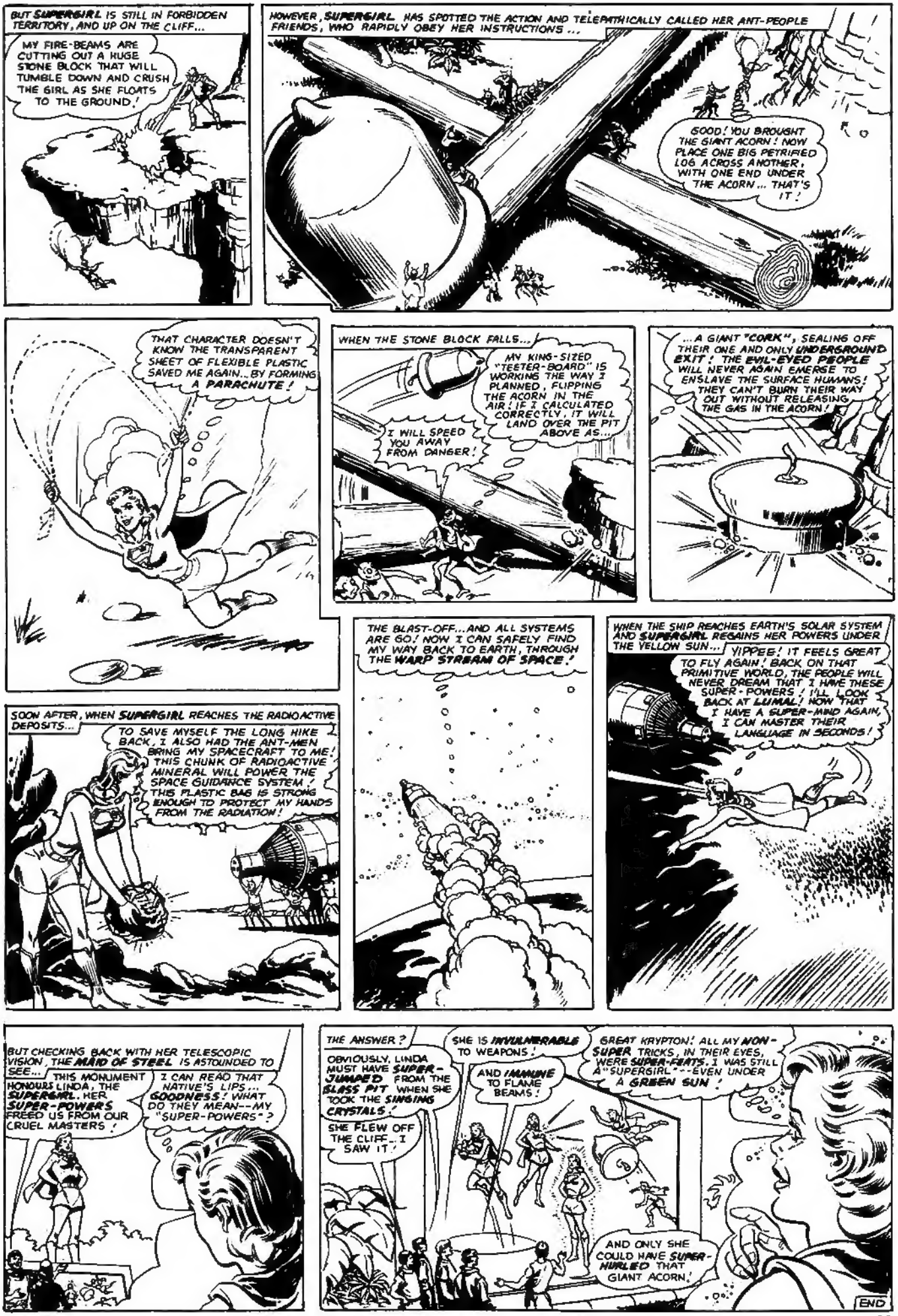
WHAT'S THIS? HAS SUPERGIRL SOMEHOW REGAINED HER INVULNERABILITY?
WH-WHY DOESN'T SHE BURST INTO FLAMES? SHE KEEPS COMING, UNHARMED!
HOW THOUGHTFUL OF YOU! THERE WAS A SLIGHT CHILL IN THE AIR!

WHEN THAT HUT BURNED, THE WINDOW PANES WEREN'T EVEN DAMAGED! MY TRAVELLING BAG WAS MADE OF THAT SAME FIREPROOF PLASTIC! IT'S NOW COVERING ME FROM HEAD TO TOE... AND IT'S INVISIBLE IN THE BRIGHT SUNLIGHT!

BUT AS SUPERGIRL STARTS TO REMOVE THE BAG, THE EVIL-EYED PEOPLE SPRING ANOTHER TRAP!
I-I CAN'T MOVE! TWO HANDS SEIZED MY ANKLES! AND I HEAR A MUFFLED VOICE...
RASH FOOL! WE CAN SURVIVE WHILE BURIED IN THE GROUND! WHEN WE HEAR FOOTSTEPS APPROACHING, WE JUST REACH UP AND SEIZE THE TRESPASSER!

NEXT MOMENT, SUPERGIRL IS FLUNG OFF A NEARBY CLIFF...
DOWN YOU GO TO YOUR DEATH... UNLESS YOU CAN... HA-HA!... FLY!

WHAT WAS THAT YOU SAID?
SHE'S ULPS! DEFYING GRAVITY! SH-SHE IS FLOATING IN THE AIR...



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